Naval Historical Center Oral Interview Summary Form

Interviewers:

CAPT Michael McDaniel CDR Karen Loftus YNCS(AW) Kathleen Wright

<u>Interviewee</u>:

CDR Marshall Martin

Date of Interview:

6 Feb 2002

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Interviewer's Organization:

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Navy Annex

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Abstract of Interview:

Interviewee Information:

Was born in 1961 in ______, CA. His father was a career naval officer who flew P-2's. He grew up his entire life as either a Navy dependent or as an officer in the service. He is second generation naval aviator, he flies P-3's. After college he immediately went to Aviation Officer Candidate School in Pensacola and then on to flight training. Has lived in all four corners of the United States. During his career he has had five Westpac tours, was a catapult officer on a carrier, stationed in NAS Brunswick, ME and in Millington, TN. He was selected for command and he is currently the commanding officer of the Naval Ceremonial Guard at Anacostia Annex. He has been CO for almost one year.

Topics Discusses:

The ceremonial guard is comprised of 235 sailors, mostly junior sailors E1 to E3, right straight out of boot camp. About 75% of their operation is providing funeral support at Arlington Cemetery. The other major role they have is to provide Navy support for ceremonies at the White House and other joint service events. They support naval funerals in a 50-mile radius around the Washington area.

Members are selected for the ceremonial guard right out of boot camp. Male members must be 6 foot and females must be at least 5' 10". This is to ensure uniformity with all the other services that provide ceremonial support.

On Sept 11th it was a crystal clear day, he will never forget how crystal clear it was. He arrived and started his run about 5:30 that morning. He went to quarters, put out the word and then began doing some paperwork in his office. He was told about the World Trade Center and then shortly heard about the second tower. He held another quarters to get all the guard members together to put out the word about what happened in New York. He had the guardsmen around him to talk to them, not in formation, when they heard a jet go over the building very low level. It was one of the F-16's that was heading to Pennsylvania to shoot down the other airliner heading to DC. Someone had called and they were told that a plane had hit the Pentagon. It just did not register that the Pentagon crash was part of the terrorist strike.

They began to take muster to account for all the Ceremonial Guard personnel. They had Guard members at the Pentagon, which conduct tours for the public. They wanted to make sure none of their people had been hurt during the strike. It took about 4 or 5 hours to account for everyone.

The Guard had a detail over at Arlington Cemetery waiting to conduct a funeral the morning of the 11th. They were waiting by a maintenance building, which is on the backside of the cemetery overlooking the Pentagon. His Guardsmen saw the plane fly into the Pentagon and the concussion from the impact knocked off some of their covers. When the detail got back to their headquarters they were still very shaken up.

When the reality of what had happened began to sink in he realized that their might be mass causalities at the Pentagon and they had to begin thinking of CACO (Causality Assistance Calls Officer) duty. All his chiefs had just gone through CACO training and he had CACO training back in 1992. The chiefs and officers began splitting up into shifts and some going home and getting uniforms ready. The chiefs got the first call around 7 or 8 o'clock that night to report to the Washington Navy Yard and be in whites. He had gone home to get his whites and had returned to Anacostia and had a room at the officer quarters. He immediately received a phone call to go to the Washington Navy Yard, that they needed him. When he walked into the CACO office he saw a board with all the names of people the Navy could not account for. At first they had about 188 names on the board. He immediately noticed names of people he knew. LT Panik had served with him before and an ET2 Brian Moss was also on the list. At the Guard they had been worrying all day about Petty Officer Moss, he had just left the Guard to serve at the Pentagon. He had been the "model" guardsman and had been the Navy District of Washington Sailor of the Year. He was the "go to" guy all the young sailors in the Guard looked up to.

Of the seven chiefs and officers at the Guard six of them served as CACO's. This got to be very difficult since being a CACO became their primary job for about six weeks. With them away from the Guard there just wasn't any "adult leadership" for the kids. They all tried to rotate among themselves getting over to the Guard to provide leadership.

He was assigned to the family of a CDR Dunn who was missing. He got with a chaplain and a driver and headed to the Dunn house about 1:00 a.m. As they drove to Springfield they passed the Pentagon and it was a bizarre scene, flames and smoke were still coming up from the building and there was a big glow. They met with a CNO representative down in Springfield and then proceeded to the Dunn household. The family was waiting for them. They were very careful and had to read a statement to the family. It was a statement to notify them that their loved one was missing and not dead. They were very careful to make that distinction during the first notification. It was a short first visit.

CDR Dunn's wife was very upbeat and positive during his visit. He thought it was her way of coping with the situation. He did learn that CDR Dunn's wife as pregnant with their first child. They assured the family they would be notified first with any information and nothing would be released to the press. They exchanged phone numbers and told the family they would be back later that day (the 12th).

For the next several days he would go over to the Guard early in the morning and make sure everything was going o.k. there. He would then call Mrs. Dunn and then head over to her house. He would go to her house around 9 or 10 a.m. and then leave late in the evening. He, the chaplain and his driver all got adopted into the Dunn family. They were all brought into the house and stayed all day with her parents and other family members. During those days they never ate so well. The family was inundated with food from neighbors and family.

By Saturday it was sinking in that he was not coming home. He noticed that there was a definite difference between his family and hers. His family was pushy and her family was very nice and they concentrated on her. Since she was the Primary Next of Kin (PNK) his focus was totally on her. After hearing a brief at the Family Assistance Center at the Sheraton he and CDR Dunn's family realized that this might be a long wait for identification due to the condition of the bodies.

On Sunday morning he headed to the Dunn house after he went to church. The Dunn family was getting ready to drive back to New Jersey. They had decided to go home to wait since the briefing the day before at the Sheraton gave them the feeling it could be a long wait for body identification. As he was there his cell phone rang and he went outside to take the call and he got the word that they had identified CDR Dunn. He was not mentally prepared for this, he had also thought it might be weeks before they would identify CDR Dunn. He did not have a chaplain with him at this time and a chaplain is supposed to be present when notifying the Next of Kin of the death. He made a judgement call and went ahead and notified Mrs. Dunn. He held her hand while he told her that her husband had been identified.

Once the notification was made to the family it changes the status and the CACO duties and responsibilities. Funeral arrangements and allotments had to be processed immediately. The notification was the hardest and most emotional part he experienced, handling the financial and paperwork was very frustrating. Too many commands wanted to micromanage his actions and talk to him.

During this time he only dealt with Mrs. Dunn and not CDR Dunn's family. That did not make them too happy but that was the way it had to be. She was the Primary Next of Kin. He picked the funeral home and began making all the arrangements for CDR Dunn to be buried at Arlington Cemetery. Arlington juggled the schedule and made special consideration so the Pentagon victims could be buried as soon as possible. CDR Dunn's funeral was on Thursday, 27 September.

Before the funeral CDR Dunn's family wanted to have a wake for him so his remains were driven all the way to New Jersey for an Irish Catholic wake. There were issues between the two families over funeral arrangements.

He has become very close to Mrs. Dunn and her family and is still helping her out. He goes to some of the big meeting like the Victims Compensation Fund meeting with her. He might even be moving into the house next door to hers when he gets remarried this summer. Whenever her parents come into town he gets an invitation to have dinner with the family.

Mrs. Dunn is doing pretty well, she is a very strong person. She had only been married just short of two years. He mentioned to Mrs. Dunn that he will always be her CACO until the day he dies or gets out of the Navy. When her baby is born (a girl - in March 2002) this will require more paperwork for benefits which the baby has coming to her.

Lessons Learned:

-Communications – information came from three different groups and some information was incorrect. This made it very frustrating.

-Joint Family Assistance Center was a very good idea. Having a central place made their jobs easier.

Abstract by: YNCS Kathleen Wright 19 Feb 2002

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Terrorist Attack; 11 September 2001

Transcript of Interview:

<u>Interviewee Information</u>:

CDR Martin was born in 1961 in ______, CA. His father was a career naval officer who flew P-2's. He grew up his entire life as either a Navy dependent or as an officer in the service. He is second generation naval aviator, he flies P-3's. After college he immediately went to Aviation Officer Candidate School in Pensacola and then on to flight training. Has lived in all four corners of the United States. During his career he has had five Westpac tours, was a catapult officer on a carrier, stationed in NAS Brunswick, ME and in Millington, TN. He was selected for command and he is currently the commanding officer of the Naval Ceremonial Guard at Anacostia Annex. He has been CO for almost one year.

Topics Discusses:

Q. (03:15) Tell us about where actually is your office. Tell us about what you do.

A. The Guard is stationed over at Anacostia Annex just next door to Bolling Air Force Base across the Anacostia River from the Navy Yard. We are comprised of about 235 people, mostly junior enlisted E1 to E3. Have a 185, 190 E1s to E3s at any given time. Right straight out of boot

camp. Very young, very impressionable. Very young, (chuckle) they really make me feel old, but they keep me young because of the things they do. They keep me busy. But the preponderance of our job is funerals at Arlington. Full honor funerals at Arlington, standard honors funerals at Arlington. We probably do, seventy percent of our operation is supporting the proper burial and honors to fallen Navy shipmates and their dependents. So mostly that is what we do. We also perform in a joint capacity providing the Navy component of any joint ceremony here in Washington, D.C. Then our, it's not our primary job, but it's the job that we like to do the most, but we do the least, is supporting the President in doing White House arrivals for foreign dignitaries, things like that.

So we're a very tight, cohesive unit. Everybody's handpicked. We all have to go through a pre—through a screening process, security-wise in order to do the Presidential support duty. But it's a very busy job. It's very much, for me as an aviator, very much akin to being CO of a squadron. I don't have any airplanes, but I have a lot of people that do a lot of different things daily. We probably do between ten and fifteen events six days a week between arrivals, funerals, both at Arlington and in, out within fifty nautical miles, or statute mile radius of DC. We do, so we keep pretty busy.

Q. (04:58) How are the people selected, the E1's to E3s?

A. We go to great lengths about four times a year looking for six-foot tall males, 5'10" for females, and it's pretty hard to find those, but we try. We do a lot of drive-by recruiting. (Interviewers laugh). We, we'll go to great lengths in a van, and we'll look and see a recruit walking down the street, and say, "How tall are you?"

They'll say "Six, one or whatever."

We'll say you know, "What day are you in training-wise?" Because we want to go a certain parameter of days. We will bring them together and show them a video of what we do. What our requirements are. What they do while they're in the Guard. What happens the two years you're here, and then they volunteer. We don't draft them. They're all volunteers, but they have to meet the physical dimensions, and that's not so much a requirement we have as it is joint. So that when we line up against Air Force, Army, Marines, Coast Guard, we all kind of look about the same with regards to height. So everybody's pretty, everybody's for the most part pretty tall. My mom says that they're all beautiful children, so. And they are when they're not getting into trouble. (everyone chuckles) Very few of them get into trouble.

Q. (06:00) Why would someone want to come do this?

A. We sell it as a truly honor to be a part of the Guard and what we do, because no body else does what we do. Especially in Washington, D.C. with the pomp and circumstance that we do at Arlington. There's no other place in the Unites States where a naval officer gets a full honors funeral, other then Arlington. So it's a pretty neat opportunity. It's very, it's a very somber type of duty, because you, depending on who you're burying, most of the folks you bury here at Arlington, many of them were you know, Naval Academy Class of '35. So we can't really relate to them other then they were in the Navy. They served twenty or thirty years in the Navy, but what I try to tell the kids is that every single tombstone in Arlington tells a story. You just don't know what it is. Typically we don't get to find out, because we do four and five full honors funerals a day. We go from, we'll do one at nine. We get done with it 9:30, quarter to ten. We'll roll right back to Ft. Meyer Chapel and do another one at eleven. So we don't get a lot of time to associate and we don't associate with the family. We have very little interaction with the family

other then that they see us. But there are other funerals, and we'll talk about them, I'm sure later, about the Pentagon, where we are very emotionally connected, because in so many cases we knew the people. So it's a lot more difficult for us to do those. They're all very difficult, but some are worse then others.

Q. (07:21) Are there any other incentives they get, they have for them coming here? A. They—the big thing's I mean the big thing's being part of the Guard. The fact that they're hand picked, that is probably the single most thing is that not everybody gets to do it. They go through eleven week training process to—we kind of de-boot camp them. That's why we get them junior, because if we took them after their first fleet tour, it'd be even harder, because the training program, and the standards we have are very high compared to what they're expected to attain in boot camp. Not that there's anything wrong with boot camp, you've got to start with something, but we take what they give us in boot camp and make it about ten times better with regards to uniform appearance. Mostly uniform and marching. Nothing that we do over there is rocket science, nothing we do is difficult, but you've got to have a little bit of, you've got to be able to march. You've got to be able to stand tall. You've got to be able to stand tall for thirty minutes, two hours, however long it is and not move. It takes discipline and that's what we're built on, everybody's disciplined. So it's, we like to get the kids when they're fresh because we can mold them the way we want, before they start acting like they've been in the fleet. But we do have fleet sailors. All of the Petty Officers, majority of the Petty Officers I have are all sailors from the fleet. They're usually E5s. Then I have Chief Petty Officers and a Senior Chief who's my command in place of my Command Master Chief.

Then we have three Division officers. First shore-tour Lieutenants, all SWOs, just by the way it's worked out, and then I've got an XO that I still don't have, who's showing up in March. He's Lieutenant Commander. So, but that's the big thing, they get their rate school that they were guaranteed when they join the Navy, because none of them join to be in the Guard. They just, we come there and say, "Hey, here's an opportunity for you to be in the guard. This is what we do." I mean for the kids that have been, kids that have had some military background in their younger years you know, when they were growing up, Junior ROTC, they marched in a high school band, things like that. They've been in drill teams or some other capacity. Those are the ones we tend to pick, because they've already got the experience.

So, the bennies for them is the fact that they get to do something really that nobody else in the Navy gets to do. They live in great quarters. They live two to a one person to a room and a common area, which is a lot better then many of their peers who are going to their "A" School and out to the fleet. They will complain about it, but when they get out to the fleet we get letters back saying things weren't that bad at the Guard, so, it's all relative. It's all what their use to so that's the big thing.

But they get their "A" School and they get done with the Guard. They go to "A" School and go out to the fleet. Many of them go to school here. They have great educational opportunities for them to go right to school while they're here, because they don't, for the most part, don't work at night. Very few things we do happen at night. Most of our things are from about eight in the morning until five in the afternoon. We do work weekends. On Saturdays for sure, but the color guard they work seven days a week. If somebody needs a color guard we usually say yes. We have a difficult time saying no to anybody for anything. So, they work hard.

Q. (10:20) Tell us about, let's go to 9-11. Tell us about your experiences that day, personally. A. Personal experiences that day. I guess there—I can still remember the day. I mean the way the day started vividly. It's just one of those days that is always going to stick in my mind. I will never look at a crystal clear day the same that I did before that day. Because that day was a beautiful day. I mean at that time, I'd gotten into a routine since I'd been here of running five days a week. Five-thirty in the morning, up and down the seawall, or the bike path, walking path of Bolling (phonetic) and Anacostia. My self and the Command Senior Chief do it five times a week, 5:30 in the morning and watch the sun come up. Just a good time for us to bounce things off of each other about what was going on in the Guard. I still remember that it was just a crystal clear morning, you know, the sun's coming up. It's a beautiful day. It was warm. I remember that it was a warm day for September. We were busy in the Guard. We had just, the day before we had, September 10th we had just done a President arrival for President Bush at the Navy Yard. First time a President had been to the Navy Yard in about ten years and he had presented the bell from the USS Cambera to the Australian Prime Minister. So we had just done that the day before. So we were talking about how that went, and getting ready for the next, that day, the 11th and I finished working out. Taken a shower, got back to the office. Good morning meeting and it was a Tuesday and morning meeting. Had had quarters at about nine o'clock in the morning and we were done with—we did quarters the standard stuff. Just put out the order of the day. What was going on. Talked about the event the day before. Went back upstairs and sitting in my office you know, doing paperwork, and one of the Petty Officers came up and said, "Sir, an airplane has hit the World Trade Center."

So, being an aviator, I said, "Well, that's kind of strange." You know, why would that happen and I wasn't sure how the weather was up there, but I said, "Well it's not unheard of, an airplane

running into a tall building." I mean, but nobody knew what it was. So within you know, about fifteen minutes later, somebody came back in and said another airplane had hit the other World Trade Center.

So I turned the radio on, and was trying to get it ready to receive and that's when I started

hearing the stuff from New York about the fact that you know, an airliner had hit the building. So we were hearing stuff about it, the fires and everything, and still didn't, nobody had any idea what was going on you know. People were just frantic about what was going on. So I decided that I needed to get the troops together and say, "Hey, this is what's happened." We don't know anything because nobody knew anything. I mean, here, at that point already you couldn't use a cell phone. You could not use a cell phone. It was already starting to bog down.

So I was down stairs. We called everybody back into quarters. This must have been nine, trying to think. What time was the attack here, 9:38, 9:40? Some time in there. We were downstairs having quarters again when the airplane hit the Pentagon. But we didn't know that was going to happen. We didn't have any idea what was happening. But we were downstairs talking and I said, "Hey, you know, two airplanes have crashed into the World Trade Center. We don't know what's happened. Why it's happened, anything like that. We'll keep everybody," you know,

I mean that's all we could do because we didn't you know, we didn't know what was happening and like I said, you couldn't call anybody you know. About the same time, our phones went out over at Anacostia. Just the regular phones on the desk went out, because I tried to call over to the Navy Yard to see if you guys know what's going on or anything. Couldn't get through. Couldn't use cell phone. So while I had everybody rallying downstairs —

"appraised as we hear it on the news."

Q. (13:53) Do you know why the phones went out?

A. Nope, have no idea at all, because they came back. They came back on. I don't know, have no idea what it was.

So we had everybody rally downstairs talking about what was going on and that we'd keep them all appraised. About that time, I still remember this. I had them gathered around me close so I could talk to them. Not typical, usually I have them out like normal, out away, but this time I wanted to make sure I had their attention, because I knew something serious was happening, but I didn't know what it was.

About the time I was doing that I heard this airplane roar over the hanger where our building is. Like at treetop level, and what it was was one of the F-16s or whatever that was trying to chase down the American Airlines plane that had hit the Pentagon. But we didn't know that, but we heard. I did not hear it, because I was talking, but the kids heard the explosion and felt the explosion when the airplane hit the Pentagon, and we're across, we're about, I mean you can see it from our building from here. We're about I don't know, maybe two miles as the crow flies at the most. Maybe a mile and a half. But we still didn't know what was going on. We didn't have any idea. But when the plane flew over I said, "That's really bizarre." Ran outside, but you couldn't see anything, you know, and we're back behind a levy on the Anacostia, so you could, couldn't see out so we still didn't know what had happened.

About that time, somehow somebody called and said that an airplane hit the Pentagon. Of course, I'm you know, an aviator, and I've always wondered – I can usually tell what kind of airplane it is by what, you know, it it's a little tiny airplane that's hit. Well guy's that fly little tiny airplanes, because I'm one of them on the side, are not always the brightest individuals you know. They crash. Why they crashed into the Pentagon, I don't know why a little airplane would

do it, but nobody could tell. They just told me it's a silver airplane. But by that time we realized that an airliner had hit the Pentagon.

Still didn't, you still, in your mentally could not fathom that somebody had commandeered an airplane and crashed into the Pentagon. It was more like a, well an airplane crashed on take off, coming out of Reagan, or crashed you know on landing or something like that. Something catastrophic had happened. Not that it was an attack. It just didn't, it still wasn't registering. Now the guys, the New York stuff was a little bit different. Why would you have two airliners hit two different towers? That was a little bit different. Of course, we're in a little black hole there. You know, we only had you know, some of the buildings there have cable and CNN.

Q. (16:05) Yeah, you didn't have CNN.

A. We didn't have anything like that you know, so, and you couldn't talk to anybody, and nobody could talk to us. So we didn't, we couldn't tell what was going on. So it was, it was not too long after that that we all realized what was going on. That you know, it was three different airliners and that was beginning to, obviously showing a pattern. So the first thing we were worried about was trying to account for everybody, because we had ten tour guides at the Pentagon that were in the Guard. We sent ten guys TAD to OSD to be tour guides to give tours for the, you know American public and those guys were on duty over there, or over here at the Pentagon.

So we were worried about just accounting for everybody. We're pretty, you know we're big two hundred thirty-five, two hundred and forty people. A lot of folks on leave and a few folks, quite a few folks TAD, but the ones that we were really concerned about were these kids that were over

here. Because we knew an airplane hit, you know. Anytime a big airplane hits something, you know people are going to die, and we just, we were worried about their whereabouts. So it took us a good, it took us probably a good four or five hours to account for everybody, and then we still had one kid we couldn't account for, and he was a tour guide. We couldn't find him. What had happened was he, to get, a couple of them had you know where their stations were in the Pentagon was very close to where the airplane hit. You know, they evacuated the place and you know, those kids are young and they don't always, they don't think. They just like they're running on adrenaline, so –

Q. (17:33) He went home?

A. Well, he didn't go home, but he hooked up with a buddy here at Fort Meyer, one of the Army tour guides and holed up there for the afternoon. Ran you know, ran with no cover, no nothing you know, just out away from the Pentagon, and he finally called in. So we had him – at the same time, we had a standard honors funeral set that was right over here just down the street where the Arlington Co – well we call it the smoke shack, but it's the little admin building where the workers, the grounds keepers hang out. Right here along the fence line and they were at the smoke shack when the plane hit. They saw it happen.

Q. (18:08) They saw the plane when it hit?

A. They saw the plan hit the Pentagon. I mean their covers blew off from the percussion from the explosion. So they came, I mean they got sent back, I mean immediately the Arlington rep sent them back to, back to the building. They got back by, I guess they were back by, it was still pretty early. Before noon they were back over here and they were all pretty shaken up, because

of what they had seen and heard and felt. So we knew you know, that something was going on, but still you know, nobody could figure out who was doing – still you know, the country, we couldn't figure out who was doing what and who had done this. But it was still just a surreal thing, I mean you just, for me I was just floored by the whole thing. You know, I mean up until that day you know, we walked around the United States thinking well – it was something you never thought about. You never would think about something that, that outrageous. I mean that's almost the way it felt to me, was that somebody would do something like that. So it still wasn't sinking in for me that, I mean we knew it happened, but we still hadn't seen anything on TV yet you know. So when you get home that night that's when you begin to see the imagines of the planes hitting the World Trade Center. Of course, there were no images other then after the way it happened at the Pentagon.

But the images of what you saw in New York, I mean it was, you know. You all saw it. It was like watching a movie. I mean it was, special effects are so good in a movie now a days, that what you saw on TV looked identical. I mean it just, it was just amazing. But after we found out what the World Trade Center and about, while we were trying to figure out what happened across the river here, by that time the Towers had collapsed. So then I thought, you know, not to be the eternal optimist, thinking you know, there's a lot of people that work there. We're talking about thousands up, thousands of people that probably died in this thing.

Of course, you know when that happened a lot of kids had family in New York and then people start worrying about people and things like that. So our biggest concern was getting everybody accounted for, and then worrying about security, because at this point we knew that, that something, this was definitely an attack of some kind and didn't know when it was going to stop. Didn't know what was next. So we had to worry about, making sure the buildings were secure.

Moving cars out, you know, kind of going ahead and increasing our threat condition on our own and then they activated the ASF, so we had to get those guys spooled up and get them mustered and sent off to wherever they needed to go that particular day.

But we did go to lunch. I remember we went to lunch over at the Galley, and you could look across from the Galley in Anacostia and see the Pentagon. You could see the smoke coming from it, you know, it was just bizarre. The whole thing was bizarre.

So we knew that you know, if the plane hit the Pentagon that we're going to be, you know, we didn't know how many people were going, there were going to be casualties, but we didn't know how many. And we all kind of started thinking about the CACO stuff. We'd already started thinking about that, because we'd had all of the, all of the Chiefs had just gone through CACO training. I had gone through CACO training back in '92, I guess '92 when I was on the *Kitty Hawk*.

I worked on the flight deck. I was the Catapult Officer and I knew that you know, something bad, in the two years I was going to be here, something bad would happen, just because it's a dangerous place to work.

Q. (21:12) Did it?

A. It did, but I was never a CACO. We had two guys get sucked down the intake of an airplane. Two different guys, same airplane, same intake, two different occasions. Same place on the flight deck, but that was the only – we were lucky, we're very, very, very fortunate in the two-year period that nothing other then that happened. It was just a dangerous place.

So we started, already started thinking about the CACO stuff. Already started thinking about well, we need to maintain, you know a twenty-four hour presence here in the Guard. Just

because, as a command for the building those kind of things, because typically you know, we close the building up at 2100 at night and come back and open up at 0500 in the morning, 0400 in the morning, before the kids come in the morning and do their first fall-outs.

So we started thinking about CACO stuff. I told the officers, I said, "We need to work out," you know, "We need to have one officer spend the night," you know in the BOQ, or a khaki spend the night in the BOQ. We already knew, knew there would be calls for CACOs.

So I told the Chiefs, I said, "You guys go ahead and go home, because by the time this stuff starts to transpire, we're going to be up all night. Undoubtedly somebody's going to get a phone call."

So sent you know, guys started going home earlier, you know, early afternoon. The officers, I told them the same things, because they had finished CACO training. I was going to wait to be like the last guy to be taken, since I was the CO, but I said, "I'll come in. I'll spend the night if you guys just want to go home. I'll stay here all night." You know I'm single, I can. It's not a big deal.

So I ended up, they all, some people wanted to spend the night anyhow because we live kind of far, that CACO lived far away from Anacostia. So we all went home. The Chiefs got the call.

Must have been seven, eight o'clock at night to start mustering over at the Navy Yard as

CACOs. You know show up in –

Q. (22:56) That evening.

A. That evening. Show up. Show up with your whites on. So I'd gone home to get my, get my whites, because I felt like well, you know, there's a possibility I could get called. So I went home, took a shot, went home, got my stuff, brought it back, and got over to BOQ. Not any

quicker then I took a shower and went to bed did the phone ring. They said, "Hey, they need you over here." It's the Senior Chief who called me said, "They need you over here."

I said, "OK." So I was over, you know I got showered, shaved, dressed, over the Navy Yard by eleven o'clock.

They had already started. They already had a list of, already had a list of the names of people they couldn't account for, Navy folks. I think they had like a hundred, like a hundred eighty-eight, somewhere in there in the beginning.

There were names in there that I knew. I mean people that I, that I had served with before. One guy I knew. I hadn't seen him for a year, he was Intell for (<u>in audible</u>) (23:47) 46, and he worked at ONI. His name was at the top of the list. I knew him. One of –

Q. (23:53) Who was that?

A. He was JONUS PANIK, JOE PANIK. Big guy played football for the Naval Academy. A real good guy, hard charging partier. We had a good time out in Diego. He had, he was one of the missing and then ET2 MOSS, was a missing person. We worried about him all day long, because we knew he was at the Pentagon. He had been a Guardsman. He was "Sailor of the Year," in Washington last year, and he was the model Guardsman. I mean he was, when you picture a Guardsman, he was the ideal, despite being a Second Class Petty Officer. He was the guy that everybody went to. He was the one that all the kids looked up to, and it was time for him to leave the Guard. So he came over to work at the Command Center. He was an ET, and we you know, kind of kept tabs on him all the time after he left the Guard. He'd always come back to the Guard, you know, because that's a very tight-knit group.

Everybody was asking, "Where's MOSS? Where's MOSS? Anybody heard about MOSS?" You know, we weren't hearing anything. We knew, most of us, if we didn't hear anything in the afternoon it was a good possibility that he was, was going to be a victim, but we didn't know. We kept on hoping that, at that point you know, everybody was still in the mode that well, you know they could very well be missing but that's what they are. They're missing. They're in the Pentagon. They're under rubble, you know. If they're alive they'll be found if they can survive long enough. This is still early on, you know, still the first night.

But his name was up there. So him – I'm trying to think – a couple of other guys that I knew of.

Guys that were P3 guys, that I did not serve with but knew about.

Q. (25:27) So you looked at the board and saw MOSS's name. You were kind of looking for MOSS?

A. Yeah, and it was up there and I already, you know CHIEF SPRUGEON who was his CACO, who was a Guardsman, all, in the Guard all of the Khaki in the Guard, except for one were CACOs.

Q. (25:41) How many was that?

A. Well, we had six of us. There were seven khaki and six of the seven were CACOs. And that was a tremendous toll on the Guard because we had, there was no adult leadership for the kids for about six weeks. Because that's about what most of us did you know, from, as a daily job as opposed, in addition to being Guards and doing Guard stuff, because we never missed a beat doing funerals and everything else. We worked it out amongst us, the khaki.

We had to do a full honors funeral, an arrival or something, that one of us would have to suck it up and tell the family we've got to be gone for a couple of hours. But we worked out a rotation where we were able to meet all of our commitments.

If we ever had this, lessons learned, if something like this happens again, that will not be what happens. But you know we wanted to help and so we're all over there. We're all over there that night and I was getting antsy. You know, I stayed over there like two hours and they were starting to get names, and starting to – I mean everybody looked different, everybody was behind the eight ball. I mean the CACO system was not designed for a mass casualty. It's designed for the pilot that crashes an airplane, for the young kid that crashes a motorcycle. It's not designed for 144 people to die in one spot, you know. So they were just you know, even though *Cole* had happened you know, a year before, it was still despite the seventeen folks that died in that, it this was a lot bigger. You know with numbers and resources involved and I think they did want to use some of the lessons learned from *Cole* in this particular instance, in this tragedy.

Q. (27:09) How'd they match you all up with the families?

A. Well, I can't tell you how they actually did it, but I was, I sort of get antsy about the whole scene. I said - you know, this is one of the things where you don't want to do it, but you do, you know? But you want to do something.

I said, "Come on," I said, "Give me somebody. I mean I've been here for two hours. Give me somebody."

So they said, "OK," within fifteen minutes they had me a name and it was PAT DUNN. I mean I didn't know PATRICK DUNN from anybody. I didn't know who he was or anything. I knew he was Commander. I knew he worked the Pentagon. I quickly found out that he was married, that

he lived in Springfield, Virginia, and that they were already kind of giving us guidelines to what we – that they had hooked us with a CNO counterpart. Somebody from N315 in this, this case. That's where most of the folks would have died – a counterpart. So I called him, KEVIN HANNES is his name. I called him. We hooked and said, "OK, what do you want to do? How we going to do this?

We were, a lot of the guys were pretty, knew pretty much what they wanted to do because they'd just been through training. I hadn't been to training in ten years, nine years. So I said, "Give me the handbook" I said, "Tell me what I've got to do. I know what I've got to do. I mean I know the obvious things I'm going to have to go do, but I need some, I need some crash course here." So they gave me a name. I got on MapQuest, figured out where I had to go. They had a driver for me to take me, take me to PAT's house.

So it was myself, let's see who did I have that night? I had a Chaplain. Trying to think who it was, because I had like three Chaplains the first three days, which hagged me on. I wanted to have the same guy every time. But we found we didn't have enough Chaplains. There were not enough Chaplains to go around, you know. Because you had guys, you had guys that were having to go to the Pentagon to do last rights. People they were finding, it was a big mess. I mean there was a lot of confusion going on. It was all very kind of cool, calm and collected over at the Navy Yard. It was very quiet. It was late at night, but finally about one o'clock in the morning we finally got in the car and started heading – we drove through town. We drove through town. The guy driving the car was not one of my guys. Later as things ensued, it began being Guardsman who were drivers for the CACOs. So this guy was a Seabee or somebody, and, or he was wearing his BUs. We drive across. The first thing that I, it was the first time I got to see the Pentagon up close, because we drove by 395 heading down to Springfield, and it was a,

just a bizarre scene. Just—there was still, there was still flames coming out of it, smoke and just a big glow coming out. Really eerie. Smoke everywhere.

It smelled bad and it was just bizarre. You just kind of looked at it and everybody was really quiet when we drove by you know. So we drove down to Springfield and we met with the CNO Rep. I mean CNO had come out and said, "Hey, I want, "you know, "this to be a team effort. So that's what we did."

So there was myself, COMMANDER HANNES, the Chaplain. We all got together, talked about what we were going to do. They had not, they had not talked to the family, but somebody had talked to the family. So we drove up, you know, the whole time, I you know, I'm going how am I going to – they gave us, they gave us like a little thing to read that said you know, that you're – because they want to make sure it was – they wanted to make, they did say you don't have to memorize it, just read it. Because they wanted to make sure that everything is right and everything is consistent. They were really, there were many times during this whole thing that I felt like there was a lot of—This is not (in audible) (30:35) that I felt like there were a lot of people covering their sixes during this thing you know. Not so much as taking care of the family as much as it was let's make sure the Navy's looking good. Kind of like the airlines look when they have an airlines disaster you know, the same kind of thing. But I didn't mind reading it. I said, "That's fine."

So I go in and you know were driving, hooked up with the guys and I said, "OK, I'll be the one that does notification and everything. So we get together and talked about what we want to do, and we, we park the car. We find the address. We find the place, and —

Q. (31:09) Had you ever actually done this before?

A. Never.

Q. (31:15) Training? Ok.

A. Never. Had never in my life.

Q. (31:14) They did training, but you –

A. Up to that point in my life it was the hardest thing I'd ever had to do in my life was say I'm going to do this. I had never, had never, I can't say I'd never experienced, the fact that my father had passed away nine months before was a blessing in disguise, because I had to deal with that kind of grief. Up until that point in my life I had never had anyone in my family die, had never known anybody that died that I was living close to. So that actually help me get through this.

So I still remember, it's two-thirty in the morning, you know. Dark, nice night, kind of cool, but not cold. Not hot, but it was shirtsleeve weather, and the lights were on in the house so I knew they were – I said, "They're waiting for us." You know.

So I rang the doorbell and I kind of, I wondered for a little while, I was like well what am I going to do, but it was like all of a sudden you knew what you had to do. You said, "This is what you get paid to do. This is just one of the things that we do."

Q. (32:12) When you rang the doorbell, who was with you, again?

A. It was myself, the Chaplain and KEVIN HANNES, the N315 Rep. There was the three of us. So we ring the doorbell. At that point, it would be hard to say who all was there to meet us.

Actually, I want to say was there. I'm pretty sure she opened the door. She opened the door and she was very upbeat. Amazingly positive about the whole thing. Which kind of

floored me, but at that point we were all still in the mode of they could still be alive, because it had only been, it had only been about eighteen hours total. So we went in the house, sat down at the dining room table and I introduced everybody and I mean, we all knew why we were there. I mean, but the way I read the thing, we had to ensure that they understood that their love one was missing. We didn't come to tell them that they were dead. We came to tell them that they were missing, because nobody knew anybody that was dead. There weren't any people that had been recovered. Everybody was still in a missing status.

So we went through that. It was actually a pretty short visit, because there wasn't much we could do, because he was declared missing and other then "Hey, this is what you can expect," you know. "Here's my phone number. This is where I work." You know, "I'm assigned to you. I will be assigned to you to get us through this no matter how long it takes. No matter what the outcome is. That is my job is to be part of this. To take care of you, primarily and the family." Found out that she was pregnant. So it was all kind of up key, you know. She talked, you know, quite a bit. I mean, which I think was her way just to deal with it. She was very open. She wasn't, there was no, there was a lot of hope in the room, more then anything else is what I remember most about the whole thing. There was a lot of hope that we were going to find him. And that's the way I felt. We all felt that way that you know, hey, yeah something tragic's happened but he's going to be OK. But we couldn't, you couldn't go out and say those kind of things. All I was there to do was to present the facts. This is what we know. The fact is we don't know a whole lot. The fact is we know that your husband is missing, and that everything is being done to find him, and as soon as we find something out you will be the first person to know. Not the media, because it could, the Navy was very concerned about the media finding out about

stuff; names being released before the families found out. So they were very, very sensitive to that. So we were very instrumental in making sure the families got the word first.

Keeping the reporters out of the, you know those kinds of things. Trying to be the screen for all the other things that were going to follow this thing all through its thing.

So it's got to be short you know. We weren't there but maybe thirty, forty minutes at the most and then we went back to the, you know, I gave her my card and stuff and got phone numbers and everything, because we just didn't know anything.

Q. (35:14) Did she have family with her or friends with her?

A. She did, she had her neighborhood close, one side of her neighbors are Navy and he works here at the Annex and they were there. Another Navy family was there, the husband and wife. Pat's family was there. They had driven down from New Jersey. So she had a lot of people there with her to take care of her. So we, like I said, we exchanged information and everything and said, you know that we'll be back. We'll come back in the morning. We'll come back later that day which it ended up being.

So we said goodbye and you know, like I said there was still a lot of hope in the, a lot of hope in the air. So we got done with that. We went back. We went back to the Navy Yard. Let people know what we had done, that the notification had taken, because we had to do all this timeline stuff. You know back to the Bureau and stuff.

I remember I was just really tired, because I'd been up you know since four o'clock the day before. I think I went back to my, I didn't go back to my BOQ room. I went back to my office. Took my uniform off. Put some PT gear on and went to sleep on the floor underneath my desk. That's what I did, so I could answer the phone if the phone rang.

Then got up, you know, took a shower, but we had to bounce back into a CO mold, role and make sure the Guard was running and figure out what we were doing, because they cancelled all the full honors and standard honors funerals for a couple of days over in Arlington, because they didn't know what to do. You know, they didn't know what to expect next.

Q. (36:47) Had they cancelled that funeral obviously –

A. That day.

Q. (36:48) That day that they did, the group that was over there ready to do that, they just cancelled it?

A. Yes, they cancelled everything. Sent everybody home.

So that was, my experience that night was paralleled by the other five folks. By the end of the evening, that morning everybody had gotten somebody to, to be paired up with you know, Some family, some victim's family.

So for the next several days, I mean I was, the Guard kind of took a backseat, which was OK, because we weren't, as officers in khaki we weren't having much to do with regards to funerals, because they cancelled the full honors stuff. The standard honors stuff would still happen sporadically. So from then on, probably for the next five or six days, I was other there, probably at her house, probably from – I'd go into work. I'd go into the office, make sure everything was going OK. Then I'd get on the phone and call her, and say, "OK, I'm coming over." And by this time we were getting bombarded with CACO related stuff. You know the CACO stuff was starting to spool up. So we'd have meetings and stuff and I would go over there probably by

nine, nine-thirty in the morning and be over there all day long. Usually I didn't get home until eight o'clock at night. Just –

Q. (37:55) Over where?

A. Over at her house. I'd take a Chaplain with me a couple of times, because he was still in the missing status. So we were easily, quickly becoming part of the family. I mean boom, just, you know and just the outpouring support she had from the work folks where she worked. Family, food was everywhere. I mean we never ate so well.

Last time I hooked up with one of my drivers, that was one of my guys, one of my Guardsmen ended up being my driver, and he drove us, he became part of the family. He would come inside. Tell the driver to stay out in the car all day, but we, and I said no, "He needs to come inside and be a part," So he's, because he had to be the same guy everyday and they adopted him. The widow did and her parents. I forgot her parents were there as well. Her parents were up from North Carolina. They were there.

So we went along in the missing mode for Tuesday, or Wednesday morning, Thursday, Friday. Saturday they were starting, by that time they were starting to realize that if they were going to find him, that they weren't going to find anybody alive. But they couldn't, they had already started recovering people, but at that point the bodies were being taken, you know, first it was Fort Meyer, then it was Ft. Belvoir and they were trying to figure out where they were going. In the end they were all going to Dover, you know. That's the way it transpired was Dover. So on Saturday, I went over there Saturday morning and we're just you know, keeping the family updated on what stuff we were finding out, which was still not a whole lot. You know, there wasn't a whole lot going on. So everybody was getting kind of frustrated you know. It wasn't—

because I understood what they were doing over here. You know, I've seen that kind of stuff. I've seen what happens when an airplane hits something at you know four hundred miles an hour. It's a mess. So they were trying to preserve what life they thought they could preserve over here, by taking a very slow process in trying to uncover things, and not to mention it was a crime scene, so you've got all those guys that were doing their thing. So it was very painstaking. Well, by this time, they had set up this joint casualty center at the Sheraton. So they asked, they—we got a phone call. I got a phone call from the CACO Center saying, "Hey, we want to know if your family wants to go down to the Sheraton for a joint brief from the General. They're going to have a tour bus that's going to take the families down to the Pentagon so they can see the Pentagon if they want to go. And they're going to give an update on the status of people."

So I told and her family. I said—all I focused on was her. I could already tell there was a big difference between her family and his family. His family was very pushy and everything. Her family was very nice trying to take care of her, but I felt as a CACO, her being primary next of kin, my job was to take care of her.

That was too much of dismay to her, his family. So I focused a lot on her. I tried to let them have information, but when it came to information, first person to get it was always her. So I was dealing with that. You learn how to be like the honest broker and the broker and the, you know, the referee and stuff.

So Saturday ensues. We go through the process. did not want to go down to the Sheraton. Did not want to go to the Pentagon. His family did. So I said, "OK, I will take you all down. We'll get a van. We'll all go down to the Sheraton and we'll listen to the briefing and everything and we'll do whatever you all want to do."

I told , I said, "They want to go. I'll go ahead and take them if that's OK with you." You know trying to keep everybody happy. So she said, "OK." So she just wasn't up to, she didn't want, she didn't want to go see the Pentagon until she found out what the status was of PAT. Whether he was, you know, dead or alive. One way or the other. She didn't, she was not in a state to face it.

So, and her mom said, "Hey, we'll take care of her. She'll be OK."

I said, "OK." So I take the DUNN family down to the Sheraton. We listen to the check brief, and the General's up there. I can't remember his name now, but he was the two-star that was in charge of the whole thing.

Q. (41:46) SALISBURY?

A. That's him. He talks about you know, in no uncertain terms about what a big mess it is over there, which for me I thought was the way you need to be. You don't need to be sugarcoating this thing and saying that things are better then they are, because people want the honest truth. What they don't want is, what they don't want is a story and it gets changed three times later. So they want, they've got to wait for information and that's kind of the way the Navy was, was proposing this whole thing was, if we've got to wait an extra day for the information, as long as it's accurate information, it's worth the wait.

So he was the same way. So he gives the, he gives the count. I can't remember what it was.

There was like seventeen Navy, seventeen Navy, seventeen Navy remains by that time had been recovered and were in route to Dover. This is on Saturday, but he finally alluded to what they were dealing with over there and I knew without him having to say a whole lot, that they were

dealing, not with – with total humans, dealing with pieces and how hard it was going to be to do the identification process.

So at the end of the meeting I was saying, you know, "we are going to," I was saying to myself, "We are going to be in this. I could be in this CACO mode, the family could be in the wait mode for two days, two weeks, two months, two years, depending on where he was when this happened." So I was kind of thinking we're in this for the long haul. His family was kind of the same way. They kind of got the same conclusion I had.

So we go to the, we go to that briefing. Then we got on the buses. Went down to, got down to the viewing area of the Pentagon. I mean it was a mess. I mean it was awe, it was just – awe inspiring is not the right word, but we were in a sense of awe. It was like we still couldn't believe this had happened.

The light poles were still laying on their side where the airplane hit the light poles. That's how low the plane was when it hit. You know, as an aviator, you know, because something that had to deal with an airplane, you just visualize the whole thing. I mean it's easy to, holy smoke, what were these guys doing?

So we were there and the family you know, they were all, his family were all very, but his family was pretty big and very close, close knit Roman Catholic. She was Episc, she's Episcopalian.

You learned all these things throughout the whole process of this whole thing.

They were very emotional through the whole thing, but we saw everything. They saw what they wanted to see. We got back on the buses. Went back home that night, back up to house that night.

I in the short time, had built up a very good relationship with mom. For whatever reason we hit it off very well. So I would tend to, tend to talk with her a lot about, you know, she

could tell that what we heard was not good stuff. So I set her down and said, "This is what I found out, and I'm going to tell this, because she needs to know this."

So I took out on the back patio of the townhouse and said, "Hey, this is what I found out." You know, I don't know how long this is going to be, and I said the same thing. It could be two days, two weeks, two months before they find out so. But he's still missing, you know, we still don't know. I mean that's his status and that's the way it should be and as soon as we find out something different then that, then we will, we will go down that path, whatever that path happens to be. We just don't know what it's going to be.

So she was OK with that. She was still, not as optimistic as she had been, because you know, as days went by, even though it'd only been four days, still you know, that the chance of finding somebody alive was greatly diminished.

Then they started talking about it being a rescue effort, to being a recovery effort, start hearing those kinds of things, you know, so they're still getting bombarded by news stuff.

So that was, you know, so the mental set now was was still a mental set of hope, but yet it was going to be a while before they'd tell you anything definitive.

So I told them that night. It was about eight, nine o'clock that night. I said, "Hey, I'll give you guys, give you all a call in the morning," which was going to be Sunday morning. "I'll give you a call Sunday morning. I'm going to church, and I'll give you a call on my way home and I'll come over after church." The Church I go to usually go early in the morning, so I'm done by 10:30.

So I get up the next morning, Sunday morning. It was a beautiful day. Just a magnificent day. I remember getting up, and go to church. It was the first Sunday after the attack so it was, you know a huge thing at church, and went to church. Came home, changed into my, change, I

changed, I was still wearing my uniform everyday, still doing it. So I went home and changed into my whites and tried to call and there was no answer.

I got my driver. He came by and picked me up. Either that or I drove into the Navy Yard. Can't remember, I can't remember how we were doing it then, but the driver to me, Senior Ballard picked me up. I said, "Take me over to DUNN's, We're going to go just visit and see how things are going."

So I arrive. I arrive like eleven o'clock, eleven-thirty Sunday morning and when I arrived there's already, I could already see the DUNN family, based on what they've heard the day before, are getting ready to leave. They've decided they just can't camp out there forever. You know, to wait for some information. So they're already starting to leave to go back to New Jersey.

I said, "OK." You know I mean, that kind of makes sense. I mean you can't just be in this mode forever. You've got to get back to normal stuff and then when something new happens, regroup.

So I said, "OK." I talked to them, I said, "OK."

They said, "Have you found out anything new?"

I said, "No, no new update."

so inside and in the meantime I would always call, before I'd go over there I'd always call the CACO office and say, "Have you guys got anything for me? Any new information to pass, policy, whatever, you know. Any status change?" There was no answer. So I go outside. I'm just getting ready to call again and my cell phone rings, and it's the CACO guys. I used to take the phone calls outside just because you never know what they're going to tell you and every so. And I get better reception outside.

So I'd be sitting there, sitting on the front porch, front steps or out in the parking lot and it's the CACO guys and they said, "They've identified COMMANDER DUNN. So I'm like, "OK." So I

ran over to my car, got a pencil. They started telling me they'd identified him. What they identified. How they identified. You know, the whole process was starting, you know.

I was absolutely, after what I'd been told the day before, I at that point right then, or right up to

that point, I was in absolutely no mental state, wasn't focused on having to go back in there now and tell this wife that her husband's dead.

So I'm sitting there writing the stuff down and going "OK," and I didn't have a Chaplain. I didn't have a Chaplain, because by that time we'd gone through three Chaplains and we were caught, once again we were all in the long-term mode now. We couldn't keep taking Chaplains every time. Didn't need to, and the family didn't want a Chaplain unless something was going to happen.

But CNP had already said, you know, "When you do this notification, you've got to have a Chaplain." You've got to have all this stuff happen.

Q. (48:39) Does she knows? She knows?

A. She knew I was there, but I'd already seen her, but I didn't have any information. Well, now I've got information. I've got half the family wanting to go back to New Jersey. I don't have a Chaplain. So now I'm sitting here. Do I follow, do I follow procedure or do I get paid, do what I'm supposed to do, get paid the big bucks to make decisions?

But I'll call back the CACO and say, "This is what I'm doing." I said you know, it took me about ten minutes to, ten minutes to figure out I'm going to go ahead and tell them, because the guys down here were telling me it was going to take an hour and a half to get a Chaplain. I couldn't wait an hour and a half. I said, and I called the CACO folks and I said, "You guys can fire me if you want, but I've built a relationship with this family in the last five days that I've got

important information that I've got to tell them and I don't have a Chaplain and I can do it by myself. We'll get a Chaplain down here as soon as you can, but they need to know this now. It's not fair for me to sit on this information because number one they're brothers and sisters of the deceased, and you know, they're leaving. They've got to know before they go that this is what's going on."

So I called KEVIN up, CNO counterpart. Called him up. He lived right around the corner, which was really convenient, and I said, I said, "Kevin, they made, they made identification. I've got to tell now." I said, "When can you be here?"

He said, "I'll be there in fifteen minutes." So he puts his whites on hooks up with me, drives over and so we get our game plan together. Who's going to do what and I go inside.

Q. (50:02) Do they realize that something's, something's -?

A. Nobody knew what was going on yet. Nobody could tell, but until mom saw me. She could tell. (CDR Martin starts to cry) It's hard, but her mom saw me and she said, "You know something don't you?"

(He's still emotional) I said, "Yeah," and I said, "He's dead." So she – I said, "Get for me."

So she went and got her and I sat down at the table. Held her hand, and told her that he, that he was identified and that you know, they couldn't – when they called on the phone they said you know, that he wasn't viewable. You know all these things. So I kind of kept that to myself. She didn't need to hear that. Not at that time. So I just basically told her you know, he's been identified. You know they identified with dental records in his case.

She, we all, it was kind of like a sense of relief, because she knew one way or the other now. It wasn't a – because the hope, the hope after what had transpired the day before, the hope factor was going, was going away. So she took it OK while I was there. I did a noti- basically, you know, I didn't have any piece of paper or anything. There was, there was no script other then you know, they made identification. He's no longer missing. He's – they've identified him and the remains are in Dover and we're awaiting – I can't remember at that point what we were waiting for, but when that happened everything changed to complexity. Now I had to jump into action as the CACO, and make sure she was getting her money. All the benefits she was supposed to get, all the funeral arrangements and all those kinds of things.

So what I did, I let them know and I said a Chaplain's on his way, and there was a Chaplain on his way at the time. He got there in about thirty you know, about forty-five minutes. And I kind of did my thing. KEVIN and I, we did that, and I said, "I'm going to let you guys talk." I just wanted to get away and let them begin the grieving process, because I knew that they needed, they didn't need me there.

Q. (52:18) What is -?

A. The whole family.

Q. (52:17) The whole family?

A. The whole family, everybody was there.

Q. (52:20) Were all there when you got there?

A. They were all there. They were all there around the table. I sat there at the head of the table.

was over here and I held her hand and said you know, told her that, that "Your husband's dead. He was identified last night. He was one of the very first guys." And he was, he was one of the very first Navy guys to be identified.

So I left and I mean the second I left that room she just, she broke down. I still remember, I'll always remember that cry that she let out. That and PAT's sister both just I mean, as anybody would be just devastated by the whole thing.

So going back to CACO mode, I had to shift back to CACO. Call back to the CACO headquarters. Tell them I made the notification so they could notify Millington, so they could start the money stuff, the money stuff happening. So I told her I said this, and I went, you know and I said, "I let them have a little bit of time."

The rest of the day was just very low key you know, we just talked to his side of the family, because now everybody, his side of the family was wanting to know well now what's next. When's, when's, what's next. When's that going to happen you know. I said, "What you guys probably need to do is go ahead and go back. Go ahead and go back to New Jersey." Because it's only like three hours, four hours away.

"Go ahead and go back there and when something, when we find out when the remains are going to be release, that kind of stuff, and we can have a timeline on the funeral, then we will regroup.

That's what I recommend you do."

So that's what they ended up doing. They ended up leaving. His brother and sister-in-law left and a few other folks left. Her parents stayed, and that was Sunday, so I stayed most of the day with them just to, just to help out you know. Just to do whatever they wanted me to do. If it was to go down to the store and get something to – food or ice you know, whatever.

I finally went home that night just emotionally just spent, and realizing that really you know, probably the hard, the hard emotional part was, one of the hardest emotional parts was over with, but now I got to make sure that she's getting everything that she's supposed to get you know, with regards to benefits and everything. So I remember and this was where I started getting kind of hacked off at the you know, the Navy, pushing the buttons on the money and stuff. I mean, like you've got to come down to PSD Anacostia and pick up her \$6,000 death security check Sunday night at ten o'clock.

I'm going, "Why? She can't do anything with it at ten o'clock at night. I'll give it to her in the morning." You know they'er wanting me to give it to her at ten o'clock at night. Like she don't you know, those kind of things. I was getting a little frustrated with that kind of stuff. But once again I said, "If I start screwing up they'll fire me." You know, so I just do what's right. I mean my whole thing during the whole thing was take care of the family. Do what you would want to be done if you were on the receiving end. You know not—just let the policy folks worry about that stuff. If they don't like what you're doing, they'll fire you. So that was kind of my mode of operation. So I didn't give her the check that night. I gave it to her the next day. I had to you know, call back to the Bureau and tell them how long it took to get the check and everything. So we were micro – and that was another thing that was really frustrating. We were micromanaged unbelievably. It's like you know, I've been in the Navy for eighteen years. I mean I'm not stupid. You know if I need help I'm smart enough to ask for it. So let me do my job. That's why you told me to do this job, so let me do it. You know, we always pride ourselves in the Navy of giving people responsibility and let then do their thing. Yet, gosh, we were just, you know, have you done this. Have you done this, you know. We were getting it from three

different people, too. Wasn't just one place we were getting it from. So that was kind of frustrating, but that was just part –

Q. (55:52) Who were you getting it from?

A. We would get, we would get phone calls from the CACO headquarters which was fine. That's what they stood that thing up for. I would get phone calls from the folks over at the Sheraton, the joint CACO people. They had our names and numbers you know, and every once in a while I'd get a phone call from Millington, from PERS 6, they wanted to know what's going on. It's like, "Come on folks. Use just one —" you know and there would be time with the phone, I would see it ringing, I'd put in on vibrator, I'd let it ring. I wouldn't even answer it. You know, I said, "If they really want me, they'll keep on calling me, and it's got voice mail," you know.

There is nothing that they can tell me. There is no bit of news now that they can tell me that would be any more earth shattering then what I've already told this family. So you know, the rest of it's just going to be information to help the process, but nothing earth shattering like you know, we've found him. That's not going to happen.

Q. (56:38) One more question. Did you ever deal directly with Dover? And was there – A. Directly, like on the phone a lot.

Q. (56:45) With CAPTAIN O'BRIEN?

A. With CAPTAIN O'BRIEN. Not so much with him, because at the time I didn't know who CAPTAIN O'BRIEN was. I thought he was an Air Force Captain at the time. Because you talk

to him on the phone he's very nice, mild mannered you know, and I didn't meet him until just here recently at one of the victim compensation meetings over at the Sheraton.

But once he was, once PAT was identified, then that began the ball rolling of all the other things that had to start happening. So I had to start worrying about funeral stuff. I'd already, once that happened then I could start talking funeral stuff with ______. And because of my job, because of my job, my regular job, I was like the Shell answer man, and could provide the answers she wanted. Right or wrong I had the answer to most everything. So, well this is what we can do you know, this is you know, and I'll make sure, obviously said I can make sure it can happen because it's what I do.

So by this time, let's see Sunday happened. She got her check on Monday. Other stuff's beginning to happen. The joint thing is starting to spool up now. I'm mean stuff's starting to happen. They're starting to identify people and benefits are starting to be applied for. I'm starting to get paperwork and stuff like that. I mean I took all the paperwork that she had and I filled it all out myself. Basically just filled it out and had her sign it.

Said, "you need to sign here. This is what you do. When you sign this piece of paper this is what you're going to get." But the joint thing was very good. It was like one-stop shopping for all the benefits. It was a very, very beneficial thing to have. I'm sure there was a lot of lessons learned out of that. That was a really good place to go to get information, to get the benefits ball rolling. Those kind of things.

So I'm about the same time, I mean, the cell phone was attached to my hip and Dover started calling me, saying. OK, hey the body you know, it's been identified. They've done what they need to do with it. They're ready to release it. So then I had to go find a funeral home, you know.

So I called, got the yellow pages out, said, "This one looks good." I mean I told "What do you want me to do?"

She said, "Do everything." She said, "Just take care of it."

I said, "OK." So that's what I did. Got the yellow pages out. Started looking, you know for a funeral – Arlington Funeral Home sounds like a good one, so that's one I picked out. Talked to the guy on the phone. He was real nice and I said this is what I need, this is what we're looking for.

He says, "OK." So he did his end, which is calling Arlington, because we'd already decided that PAT would be buried at Arlington. wanted to do that. All during this I dealt with her. I did not deal with his family. I just said I'm not going to talk to them. I mean, now if she wants me to talk to them I will. If they want me to talk to her, I'll do that. I'll be like the running guy, the runner, but it's not their decision. It's her decision.

So that was met with much you know, hate, but anyhow that's the way it was going to be. So the funeral guy, the funeral director he's calling back and saying well – this is on, by this time this is Tuesday. We were at the Sheraton doing a, they had the first N315 get together with all the spouses and wanted to go to that now that she knew. It's the first time she'd seen anybody. She wanted to see the other spouse. So I took her down to that.

I'm getting phone calls now that the body's ready to be released. So I'm getting the funeral stuff rolling and we still thought you know that it would be probably good month before he could be buried just because of the backlog at Arlington, because there is a backlog there.

Well about, I guess behind the scene Arlington had already decided that for this, these folks, these victims, that were going to be buried in Arlington, they would jumble the schedule, because they already had it jumbled anyhow. Because most of the funerals that are done over

here are from people that are from out-of-town. You know, they're retired. So they schedule for months ahead of time anyhow.

So they called me back and said, "Hey," this is on Tuesday, they've got a date next Thursday. Like a week away.

so I went to and I said, "Hey," I mean I said, "Here's what I think will happen. If we don't jump on, we don't jump on Thursday," - think it was, I don't have a calendar, I think it was the 26th, 26th or 27th – "If we don't jump on that date it's going to be longer. We're going to have to wait, and I really think it would be in everybody's best interest, the sooner we get this funeral done, the better off everybody will be. I mean it won't be total closure, but for a lot of people it will be a lot of closure."

So that was my recommendation and she said, "OK. Do whatever you want to do."

I said, "OK." Set the funeral up for that date. Got all you know, times and everything. I felt very, very comfortable with that, because I mean I knew I was going to be there and it would go fine. Well that was not to the liking of his family. So they were wanting you know, you decide to have a funeral services you know, with the chapel and then a procession down to the graveside. Graveside ceremony and honors and that would be it, and a reception at the Naval Academy afterwards, I guess. No it wasn't afterwards. I had a reception somewhere. Where did we do it? I couldn't go to it, I remember, because I had another funeral to do.

But in the meantime, the families getting upset. His families getting upset that they want to have a wake and they don't want all these different crazy things. And like, "No, we're not going to take PAT's body all over North American before it gets buried. It's going to stay either at Dover until it's time to be buried, or, that's what's going to happen."

Q. (01:02:10) They wanted a wake, didn't they understand he couldn't – it would be a closed casket, I guess.

A. It would be a closed casket, yeah, they understood that, and I told them, "Hey, it's been

said OK. She was OK with that. She understood, you know she understood.

So in the end, to make a long story short, I tried to be the intermediary between the two families and I told _______, I said, "You don't want to do anything," because she didn't want to have the wake. I said, "You don't want to do anything here—" I try not to do this very often, but I could tell this was going to be a big thing—because I hate giving advice about family stuff. It's not my job, but I could just tell that things were not good between the two of them, between the two families. I said, especially with a child involved. Now there's a child down the road that will be born that's going to have to inherit all this mess.

I said, "You don't want to do anything that's going to affect what happens ten years from now.

So if they want to have a wake, meet them halfway and say OK, but put some limitations on it."

So that's what we did. The following Monday I got in a hearse at, I don't know, don't know what time it was. Must have been about nine o'clock in the morning, eight o'clock in the morning, we're on to the funeral home with PAT's casket. I rode in the hearse all the way to (Inaudible), New Jersey. Escorted the remains up there. She, and her family came up for the wake. We had the wake and everything and then I remember I rode with that, rode that hearse that night, at eleven o'clock at night. Didn't get back in DC until three o'clock in the morning.

The guy dropped me off at the funeral home and I think I had to go to work the next day, (laugh) you know. It was, amazing the things you had to do, but there were so many things you wanted to do you know, you felt like you had to do something, so we had the wake and then we had a

memorial service I think, the next day. For about three days there was just non-stop moving. Just going and all the while still being able to do the Guard commitments, the funerals that were happening, to start, just kind of start up a little bit, and just doing all the admin stuff to make sure she was supposed to get in regards to benefits and paperwork submission. Those kind of things. But we did the funeral on that Thursday. Thursday was kind of a cold, no it wasn't cold, because we were still wearing whites. It was a damp day. It was overcast. Looked like it was going to rain, but it didn't.

Did the funeral and the funeral went really well, but it was—the hardest part for me was when they brought the remains back out of the chapel, because when they do that, the family's behind the casket when it comes out. I could see and her parents right there you know, and I was standing right across from them with the troops behind me. Because typically the CACO would be there with the family, but they wanted me to be the, to be the Commander of Troops for the things. So I didn't do that. KEVIN kind of stood there with them.

You know it was a huge funeral with lots of you know, gosh hundreds of people were there. So did the funeral and then after that things really quieted down quite a bit. Once the funeral was done then it was really just making sure that payroll was filed. Making sure that when a, some paperwork claims were filed that the payments were done. The headstone was ordered. Those kinds of things. And then you know, all the while put that, you know, you know, buried PAT then we had to deal with you know, I had to deal with PETTY OFFICER MOSS, because his took a while, took a while for the identification for him. It was probably another week and a half, two weeks, I think. And there were a lot of wranglings with that as to what he should get. What we wanted in the guard and what he actually got were two different things.

It wasn't, I'm the kind of guy where somebody tells you "no," that OK, no. I understand, but some guys don't work that way so there was a lot of hate and discontent about what happened with that funeral, but I mean, I mean that's, that's kind of what happened CACO-wise. I mean, and to this day if that looks like I'm going to be, looks like I'll probably be next door neighbor.

Q. (01:06:16) Really?

A. Yeah, just because I'm getting married this summer and the gal I'm marrying, she's a nurse. She's a Navy nurse and she's, she's coming here to the Annex, and this place was coming open so it looks like you know, I told her I'm your next door, you know, next door CACO you know. (someone laughs)

Q. (01:06:35) Wow.

A. But I you know, still I talk to her at least two or three times a week still, and her parents, every time her parents are coming to town, I get an invitation to dinner. You know they always come you know, come up from the, in fact they're here right now. But —

Q. (01:06:51) What about her baby. Do you know anything about it? She get an – A. It's a girl. It's a girl. She's due the 29, I think. March 29th I want to say. It's definitely a girl, they say now. She got an ultrasound Friday. But I've gone through to the victims. If there's some big meeting, I usually go with her, like the Victims Compensation Fund. That kind of stuff. I went to that, just really to be, just to be with her to give her just moral support more then anything else, because I can't make those decisions for it.

It's been a really, really, professionally rewarding experience. Not particularly an experience I want to do again, but if it happened again I'd do it in a heart beat. It's just like doing the funerals. You know it's not particularly a great job. I mean it's a, it's, but it's a very rewarding job. You know you get a lot of personal satisfaction out of rendering proper honors to people, because you know I don't know what the people have done. Although in some funerals I have found out what they've done. You know like I was reading in the (in audible) (01:07:50) News yesterday, talked about how we brought back the remains of a pilot that was killed in Vietnam back in 1965. Well I did that funeral about a month ago. Here was a guy who'd been missing since 1965. He's buried here at Arlington now, and he, everybody in attendance at that funeral, half of them didn't even know him. You know like his, you know his wife who was married she was there, but hadn't seen him you know, in 35 years, 37 years. Child who never you know, it's just amazing the way these, amazing the things you see when you do a funeral, which you see a lot of strange things when you do the funerals, too. I mean bizarre, because people just, people, human beings operate very strangely, can act strangely in periods of immense stress you know, and tragedy. So, but, I mean it's just, and everyday I go over, mostly everyday if I've got a funeral over at 64, I always go by and say hi to PAT. I'll always go by, check to see if he's got his headstone yet. Because the joke has always been, somewhere in his records, his name is PATRICK DUNN, but from somewhere, it says PATRICK W. DUNN. Has his middle initial being "W." He doesn't have "W" for a middle initial. He has no middle initial, but there is some piece of paper that has that on there. It's a source of laughter for an and I because she's always telling me if that headstone says, "PATRICK W. DUNN" on it, we're getting a new one. I said, "Hey, I'll be more then happy to reorder it." I said, "I know I didn't put "W" on that paperwork." (Everyone laughs)

But she's, she's, she has maintained. She's doing pretty well. I mean she, she's been very strong throughout the whole, the whole – they were only married for two years, I guess, two years. I mean their second anniversary was October. So he died right before, was killed right before their second anniversary.

So, but she's had tremendous amount of support. She's been very strong. But it's a really good, I mean just a great experience. I mean, I mean, I made friends with her and her family that you know I'll always, you know I'll always have. I told her, I said you know, "I'll always be your CACO until one of us dies. I will always be your CACO, even when I leave DC and go somewhere else, until I die and until I get out of the Navy and retire you know. I'll be the one that they call." Because when the baby's born in March that'll start a whole new set of paperwork you know, benefits and stuff, because the baby gets benefits.

Q. (01:10:19) Does the baby get a college education?

A. Uh huh, but that's, they're getting a lot of benefits that otherwise people would not give. Just because people live you know, because of the mass of the tragedy so.

Q. (01:10:32) Have there been any, has there been an opportunity for you to put some lessons learned, or from the CACO side?

A. We did. We had a big, kind of like a hot wash-up kind of thing about, about six weeks after it happened, They got us all together, all the Navy CACOs, and our biggest, probably our biggest, one of our largest and biggest pet peeves was the information coming from three different places. The same information coming from three different places. That was what bothered us the most

was the communications, which is that we always have in lessons learned, it is never as good as it could be. But we did do that.

Q. (01:11:05) And training items as well, how to train future CACOs etcetera?

A. Well, I think the training of the CACOs is OK, but what they need to do is they need to shift on how we do CACO responsibilities when you have a mass casualty. They've got to figure how to do that, you know. But I think the joint, the joint CACO center they had at the Sheraton is kind of a step in the right direction, because we were able as CACOs, all different services, really the only two services was the Army and the Navy. We were able to go over there and take, I took care of everything that she could get with regards to official government benefits. Not all the other things that have popped up since then. All in the course of a morning, so that was the way it needed to be. If it hadn't been for that then there would have been a lot of, a lot of running around, driving. You know DC is obviously is not a great place to have to drive a whole lot, but to have that central place was really good for all of us to deal with it, to do our jobs more effectively.

But it was I mean like I said, something I really enjoyed doing because it was rewarding personally and professionally. But I wouldn't want to do it again, but if I you know, if my name came up again, I'd go do it in a heartbeat. But it did take it's toll, because of the way it was done, it took a toll on us at the guard, just because we didn't have anybody there for about six weeks. Had one Chief running, taking care of the place and she was run ragged, so.

Q. (01:12:32) At the ceremonial Guard was there emotional toll for these young sailors even without the MOSS situation, but some of –

A. I think there was because they realized that a lot of the folks that were buried were younger. I mean a majority of them were older, you know like my age, because that's just the type you know, people who are at the Pentagon. But some of them were younger and the fact that it happened you know, the fact that they know that it happened in DC where they live and that these were people that were two miles away from them when they died. So it's not like the typical funeral where you know, this person died you know, may have died six months ago, but they were eighty years old you know. It's just different. I mean in my mind it is. You know, yes a death is, a death is not a good thing, although I will, I've always looked at death as, assuming that somebody dies naturally, it's a part of life. That's just part of the cycle, so it doesn't, I'm not cold hearted it just doesn't bother me, because it doesn't scare me. I just know that it's going to happen, and if you live seventy, eighty years, you know, eighty ninety years, you've lived a pretty full life. But when you've had somebody that's ripped you know, you're never prepared for it no matter how old they are. But when you've had somebody that you know, none of these people that went to work that morning you know, none of the three thousand people at the World Trade Center, none of the 144 folks at the Pentagon, they got up that morning, kissed their wife goodbye and never thought about not coming home that night you know. So that's very difficult. So for us it was hard to do the, it was and I did probably, I think I probably did eight or nine of the full honors funerals for officers that died over there. They were each and every one of them were difficult, very difficult to watch and be a part of. You could put the game face on, but there's a, and a lot of it has to do with the fact that my dad was military. He died, had you know, well he didn't have a military funeral because he was buried in that cemetery back home, but, but still you know, even when I was a little kid you know, hearing taps will always, will always raise the hair on your arm and the back of your neck. And it's different when you, it's different when

you see somebody, and I'm always worse when I see a aviator who's died. Some of these guys we got over here were aviators. It's always you just for whatever reason, you have a bond, you have a professional bond with them that you know, even though they didn't die in an airplane the fact is an airplane killed them. So it, it did take a toll on, on all of us.

But the CACO stuff continues or you know continues to be a part of my life, because I'll always get a phone call about something you know. I got a phone call one day from a FBI, this was back in October, got a phone call from an FBI agent. I can't remember what he was. He was like a forensic kind of guy and he was the guy-I got a phone call from saying, "Hey, this guy sent me a card, saying that he was the guy that pulled PATRICK from the rubble, and if she wanted to know more about the way he was and how,"—she was, it wasn't a morbid thing, it was, she, her, I think what she wanted to know was, all the families want to know how the person died, because they have, they struggle with wanting to know whether or not they suffered or not. Most everybody wants you know, they know that their loved ones is dead, but they would hope that when they died it was instantaneous. Because you saw the images of fire and stuff and people think a lot about how painful that is. So he said if you want, if you have any, really said if you have any questions about anything give me a call.

Well, she didn't have the strength to call so she called me. She called me at work one day and said, "Hey, I've got this number for this special agent. Can you give him a call?" I said, "sure." So I call and get his voice mail or here somewhere in DC and I was going on leave. I was going on leave to Minnesota and I'm sitting in the airport. I was meeting my fiancée in Minnesota. She's flying up from Memphis and I was flying in from here. My cell phone rings in Minnesota and it's this FBI guy. He's in Florida on some kind of trip.

He says, "Commander Martin, this is special agent," so and so. "I got your message, and here's what I can tell you about what happened.

So I had to learn about how they thought happened you know, basically I mean it was you know he was killed very, you know, very quickly. We were getting a lot of conflicting information from people. People said yeah, he had his uniform on. Yet the guys at Dover were saying that he wasn't viewable and all these different kinds of things. Yet one guy would be, both persons, both people were killed sitting two feet away from each other, but yet one had these kinds of injuries. This one didn't and this one had this kind of injuries. So there was a lot of disparity as to, and it's just the way those kinds of things happen, because of what happened you know.

So I you know, had to tell her about that, but I didn't get into any great detail other than it appears that he did not suffer, and that's what she cared about. So you know, there's always something that, we'll you know, get a phone call wanting to know some kind of information.

Q. (01:17:37) Would you have held something back from her? Were you prepared to do that?

A. I'm not real keen on providing all the information if I know it's going to be something she just doesn't, it just not going to do any good.

Q. (01:17:50) doesn't need to hear, right.

A. You know, but if she asks about it, if she asked about it, point blank asked me a questions, I'll tell her what she, about it. But, no, not knowingly, I mean, but I'll let her, I'll let her, let her know what you know, let her know everything, but I won't tell her that you know when it comes to those kinds of things, because I still you know, there were – she didn't want to open the

casket, but the family did. His family was just, I mean, I had to go to the funeral director and say, "Is there a way that we can change the kind of casket that it was." Because the wooden caskets you can open, but the metal ones you can't open. They have a key.

And I said, - and that's one of the reasons I went to the wake was to make sure that they would behave themselves, because they were just those kind, they were just different you know. The whole thing with them was the fact the PAT was thirty-nine years old and he died. They didn't – and PAT had known each other for four years and been married for two, and his parents had known him for 39 years. And they would just never recognize the fact that was the wife and that she's the primary next of kin. They thought that they were the ones that should be making all the decisions.

I didn't tell the parents, because the parents never came down. They came down for the funeral, but I saw them at the wake, but that was it. They never came down, but the brothers and sisters were just you know. I said, "Look this is the way it works in the military. In fact it's the way it works most places is that when you get married that spouse is primary next of kin. You've got to come to grips with that. If there's decisions to be made, the one that makes them, OK?"

And it got to be to where they wouldn't talk to each other. I mean I ended up, you know, I,

parents would come to me and say, "You need to tell PAT's parents," you know
and I'd say, "Yes, ma'am. Yes, sir."

I'd go over there (interviewers chuckle) you know, and same thing you know with his side of the family, so. So it was a very interesting experience. Very, very rewarding though. I mean just, like I said not something I wouldn't want to do again, but I'd do it in a heartbeat if I had to, because it's just – you're helping somebody you know. And that's what you want to do, because you

can't do anything else, you know. Especially here, you know. Like to be like the rest of the guys in the Navy and being on a flight in the Caribbean in a P-3, flying with slams on the wings and doing my part, but you know. And I tell the kids it's, our part you know in this whole thing is to put people, lay people to rest that made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. That's what we do over here, so.

Q. (01:20:09) Well I know just as a fellow naval officer and representative of the Historical Center. Thank you.

A. Sure, probably talked too much.

Q. (01:20:16) For all that you've done and who you are.

A. Your welcome.

Q. (01:20:22) Beyond just (<u>Inaudible</u>) done.

A. It's an honor. I mean it truly is. It's an honor and a privilege to get to do it. You know I just, it's just different. It's hard to explain to people until, unless they have done it or gone through it that they understand what it is we do, so, as a CACO. So like I say, I'd rather not have to do it again, but I'll do it if they need, if they want me to.

Q. (01:20:40) Anything else.

Q. (another) Thanks Marty.

A. Alrighty.

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