

**Naval Historical Center
Oral Interview Summary Form**

Interviewers:

CDR Karen Loftus
CAPT(sel) Carol O'Hagan

Interviewer's Organization:

Navy Historical Center
Navy Historical Center

Interviewee:

LT(jg) Nancy McKeown

Current Address:

████████████████████
████████████████████
Work - OIC Naval ICE Center
Pentagon METOC Component

Date of Interview:

25 Oct 01

Place of Interview:

Navy Annex

Number of Cassettes:

1

Security Classification:

Unclassified

Name of Project: Pentagon Terrorist Attack Incident

Subject Terms/Key Words: Pentagon; Terrorist Attack; 11 September 2001; triage; evacuation; lessons learned; Defense Protective Service; FBI; carnage; Navy Command Center; renovation

Abstract of Interview:

Interviewee Information: LT(jg) McKeown was born in ██████████. Has been in the METOC community for 17 years. Attended boot camp in Florida. Went through the enlisted ranks through Chief Petty Officer and picked up her commission through the LDO program. Has been stationed on a variety of ships. Dual warfare qualified. Joined the Navy because she wanted a career and financial security. Currently the OIC of the METOC Component located in the Pentagon. Her office was located in the Navy Command Center on September 11.

Topics Discussed:

Typically she would get in around 5 a.m. and begin with initial preparation for morning brief providing worldwide weather. Had 5 total people in the component, 3 weather forecasters, a Senior Chief and herself.

On September 11 morning brief went well. The Senior Chief was not there; he was off with the Chief selects. Did the morning presentation at about 0700. Two technicians would come in at 0730 if didn't have the midwatch. Began admin type things that needed to be done. She noticed the lounge TV had the news about the World Trade Center. As she watched the first building burn they saw the second plane fly into the second tower. Her technicians went on the computer to try to find some news on the Internet.

She sat down at her desk and heard a loud roar and rumbling. It felt like a violent earthquake. The roar got louder and louder. She thought it was a bomb and yelled out "Bomb" and went

under her desk. It went pitch black and smoke began to fill up the space. It got silent and the rumbling settled. She lost her glasses initially as she dove under her desk.

She started to yell for her guys. She walked out of the office and had to climb over something to get out. She fell and continued to yell for her guys. It was deathly quiet, no response. The sprinkler systems worked. She had passed through a water pipeline that had burst. Saw lights flickering above her. Continued on down trying to find her way in the dark and the smoke continued to get worse. Her hands, in front of her, were getting hotter and hotter, so she turned around. Tried to climb out and could not. She pulled herself up on something that was hanging down but the smoke was more intense so she dropped back down to the waterline. She continued to try to find her guys, not able to see anything, smoke continuing to come at her. She continued to yell out with no response. She turned another way and still found no one. Finally turned a corner and saw a dim light and headed towards it. The light got brighter and the smoke let up. She ended up in the passageway and could see the glass doors that led to the C ring. Saw two silhouettes running past the glass doors. Yelled for help. Finally the people in the hall saw her and came in to help her. She told them she had two guys down and they needed to get them out. One person pulled her out to the passageway. She was unable to breathe and had a hard time speaking. She was able to communicate where they were. She insisted they need to go in to get her two guys. She gave him information on where they were. The person disappeared.

She saw an Army person in the hall screaming “Get me out of here”. She saw silhouettes jumping from the second floor. Someone took her out to the triage area and put her in a private van and took her to an urgent care facility where she was treated.

Three days later she followed up with Naval Hospital Bethesda. She then escorted Petty Officer Earhart home who was her Leading Petty Officer. AG1(SW) Earhart was the first person identified. AG2 Matthew Flocco was her other technician.

When she was at the urgent care clinic she used a phone on the wall in the examining room to call the Command Duty officer and told them where she was. She reported she couldn't find AG1 Earhart and AG2 Flocco and they were still missing. She also asked them to call her mother who lives with her.

They sent an officer to pick up her mom in Maryland who came to pick her up at the urgent care system. She washed her hair six times before she could get the smell out of it.

She returned to work on the second day to the offices at Suitland, MD. Three days after that she escorted AG1 Earhart home. Attended both funerals for both of her petty officers that were lost. On 2 October she actually started her OIC METOC Component job again.

LESSONS LEARNED:

Damage control – If they had had EBD's to get out of the spaces it would have been better. They work in a vault.

The firefighting training she has had over the years helped a lot.

Physical readiness training, she knew not to take deep breaths. She was trying to take short breaths.

Leadership training- forced her to move, not curl up into a ball. Act, not react.

Transcribed by:
CDR Carol O'Hagan
29 OCT 01

**Naval Historical Center
Oral Interview Summary Form**

Interviewers:

CDR Karen Loftus
CAPT(sel) Carol O'Hagan

Interviewer's Organization:

Navy Historical Center
Navy Historical Center

Interviewee:

LT(jg) Nancy McKeown

Current Address:

████████████████████
████████████████████
Work - OIC Naval ICE Center
Pentagon METOC Component

Date of Interview:

25 Oct 01

Place of Interview:

Navy Annex

Number of Cassettes:

One

Security Classification:

Unclassified

Name of Project: Pentagon Terrorist Attack Incident

Subject Terms/Key Words: NCC Survivor, Navy Command Center, Pentagon Rescue; METOC, Terrorist Attack; 11 September 2001; Triage; Lessons Learned; Carnage

Abstract of Interview:

Interviewee Information: LT(jg) McKeown was born in ██████████. Has been in the METOC community for 18 years. Attended boot camp in Florida. Went through the enlisted ranks through Chief Petty Officer and picked up her commission through the LDO program. Has been stationed on a variety of ships. Dual warfare qualified. Joined the Navy because she wanted a career and financial security. Currently the Officer In Charge of the METOC Component located in the Pentagon. Her office was located in the Navy Command Center on September 11th.

Topics Discussed:

Q. (02:43) Could you tell us where in the Pentagon your office is located?

A. Presently we're located at 5B660.

Q. (02:49) Is that where you were located September 11th?

A. No, we were located in the Navy Command Center, which was 1D460.

Q. (02:56) As you were to walk into the Navy Command Center, the main spaces, walking into the entrance, I know was on the left-hand side. Where would your office have been located?

A. As you walked into the Navy Command Center to the right would have been the lounge. Initially to your left were the glass trophy cases and then the METOC office was right there to the left. As you walked further down the passageway the OPS were off to the right.

Q. (03:25) OK. Can you tell us what your typical day would have been prior to September 11th?

A. Basically, I would have the mid-watch fill in. They would come in at midnight; they would work from midnight to eight, preparing the weather charts, making flights, things of that nature for Admiral Keating, which would go down, depending on brief times, it fluctuates all the time. My mornings would start at 5, again the initial preparation for the morning brief, usual briefs, worldwide weather was interested in the operational needs, and then we would provide updates throughout the day.

Q. (04:05) Ok, so your crew were on eight-hour watches?

A. My technicians would be on eight-hour watches, that's right.

Q. (04:11) OK, and how many people were assigned to you?

A. There's five total in the component. I would have three non-7412 technicians, non-forecasters and one Senior Chief and myself.

Q. (04:25) OK. Can you tell us about the morning of September 11th? Start out with, how'd your day start?

A. The morning briefings went well. (chuckle) Typical morning briefing. I would come in—my Senior Chief was not there that day, thank God. He was off with the Chief select. They took the

morning. When I came in my mid-watch technician, AG2 Miranda (phonetic) had just finished up putting all the weather charts together, and gone through the frequent slides, gone down to the theater room to load it up. Did the morning presentation.

Q. (04:59) Which was what time?

A. I think at that time we did it at 7:00.

Q. OK.

A. The rates have changed so much over the last month, I believe that morning it was 0700. Might have been at 6:45, either/or. We went ahead and finished up the morning briefings. On my second round the two technicians would come in at 7:30. Their hours, if they didn't have the mid-watch they would work a day watch, eight hour type status, so they would work from 7:30 until 16:30.

Q. (05:35) And you had two of them there that day?

A. Yes.

Q. OK.

A. AG2 Miranda (phonetic) secured himself. I said my farewells to him. The other two came in, in their normal, typical jolly selves. I provided some morning taskings. We went ahead and started doing some admin. type things, items that needed to get done. As I walked out of my office to utilize the head facilities is when I notice the lounge TV had the first World Trade Center explosion. So I turned around and immediately went back into my office. We turned on the television that we had on there. Typically we'd be running off of the weather channel. And as

we were watching the first building burn, we sighted the second building as the plane crashed into that.

We initially went, our—a bunch of technicians initially went on to the computers to do some research to see what we could find out about it. I stood there for another, well, very short time period after that. We were talking, things of this nature. I then took myself and moved myself from where I was standing, which was between the two guys, into my office, which would be about the distance from here to where that front partition is. It's not very far maybe five feet. As I—and I sat down at my desk, and when I sat down at my desk, that's when the rumbling started, I heard a loudish roar and the ceiling fell down. And I started falling.

Q. (07:11) Were you all separated from the regular command center by Sicolocks (phonetic) or was it just a door?

A. The door did have a cypherlock on it. We did have our own little passageway as you walked into the main center METOC office, and then off to the side of that was the smaller OIC office where I had a master computer at, and one of our main servers where we would run, it would run our wall of thunder and any additional computers that were out in the spaces.

Q. (07:39) OK. So what happened immediately after the plane hit?

A. Well, it felt like a violent earthquake. I mean initially it started out as a massive shake, and being stationed in Yokosuka, twice you become used to earthquakes and that's unusual in the DC area. CIS, and then the roar just kept getting louder and louder, (unintelligible) (08:03). I thought it was a bomb and that's what I yelled out was "Bomb!" and I initially ducked underneath my desk as things started falling from the ceiling. It immediately went pitch black and smoke just started filling the compartment.

Q. (08:20) Then what did you do?

A. This is not easy. Hope you all realize this.

Q. (08:26) We understand that. You take your time and say what you want to say.

A. After the—it kind of got silent, but the rumbling kind of settled, and the darkness overcame. I lost my glasses initially as I ducked underneath the desk. The smoke started filling the compartment so I started yelling out for my guys and worked my—I have one door exit, the door to go in and out of the office just right into the main weather center. So I walked out of the office and actually had to climb over something to get out to the other side of it, and as I fell, or as I got to the other side, somewhere there, I fell. I still yelled out from the top of my lungs for both of my two guys, and have them come over, Second Class and Third Class at the time. Excuse me First Class and Second Class. I was yelling out for them to see if they could hear me where they were, things of this nature. It was deathly quiet. There was no response. The smoke was, was, it just—you couldn't see anything. The sprinkler systems had worked initially in my office. When I fell from the other side, I did find a water pipeline that had busted, or actually I had passed through a water pipeline that had busted and I kind of used that as my reference point. I figured my guys were to the left of me. They should have been to the left of me, so I started walking to the left, yell out to them. Trying to find them. Got down on a certain portion, saw some different lights flickering above me. Didn't quite look like my compartment. I had my hands stretched out to feel for heat, or fire, or smoke and as I continued on down it got worse. The smoke got worse.

Q. (10:20) You still couldn't see, right?

A. Could not see anything. Could not hear anything. I progressed as far as I could and to the point where the, my hand was getting hotter and hotter, so I turned around and went back to the water line that had busted, I remember that first point. Figured maybe I had fallen to—we were

up on a false deck, so I figured OK, the guys would be up here above this rubble or whatever it was that caved in. So I tried climbing up. Could not. Couldn't grab a hold of anything, but as I—there was something that was hanging down that I pulled myself off the pond and the smoke was much more intense up in that area and made breathing even harder. So I dropped back down to the water line and just kind of saturated myself with the water line and scanned back down to the passageway that I had walked on, confident that that was to my left and where it should have been, and it just, it just—you couldn't see anything. It just looked like this barrel of smoke just coming at you. It was just, I don't know how else to describe it. It was just intense smoke no matter which way.

I continued to yell out for anybody at this point in time. That's when I started yelling out to anybody for help, and there was nothing. It was still very quiet. So I turned around and headed out in another direction trying to see if there was anybody out in that area. Again there was nothing. It was total darkness. So I turned the corner. I remember rubbing my shoulder up against something that caused me to turn slightly to the left and at that point in time saw a very, a light, a very dim light toward the distance. So I started heading towards the light and I was stepping all over all kinds of stuff in the dark, and stuff. As I headed toward the light, the light got brighter, the smoke let up and I ended up actually out in the passageway out—it was like two passageways that you actually had to go through to get into the Naval Command Center. You've seen the diagrams enough, but as I progressed out I actually could see the glass doors that headed out towards the C ring that would lead into the out, you know towards the apex. As I walked and continued to walk towards the glass doors, I could actually see the glass doors. Pretty much knew where I was by this time and I saw two silhouettes that were running pass the glass doors. So I would stop and yell for help and then I would proceed to walk forward and I 'd see two people walk, again, run pass the glass the doors, and it took 'til about the third time after proceeding

forward, because for me to yell at this time, I actually had to stop before I had any, took as much I could to, vocal cords to yell.

The silhouettes finally spotted me and came in and grabbed a hold of me. I explained to them that I had two guys down and what compartment it was and where I came from and told them that we had to go back this way to get them, because, you know, the smoke was, there was a lot of smoke and we needed to get them out. And, I felt one time, he grabbed a hold of me (speaker is becoming tearful) and handed me outside.

Q. (13:49) Were you having trouble because of the smoke, or because of just fear?

A. I couldn't breath at the time. I was having a hard time speaking and my vocal cords were not clear. Though I was able to communicate where they were. He got me outside and when we got outside he pinned me up against one of the walls and said that we had to go back in and get my two guys, and he said, "Where were they?" And I gave him the compartment number again.

Which one we were in, why we were in the Navy Command Center, exactly how he had to get back in there. Which door to go through where the office was located at. He directed me to stay where I was and he disappeared. I don't know where he went.

In front of me was, I believe it was a soldier sitting in front of me that had both arms extended, his knees were bent up and he was screaming at the top of his lungs for somebody to get him out of there.

I could hear people yelling, "Don't jump! Don't jump!" As I looked up I could see silhouettes falling from the second floor down. I don't know if they were jumping or falling. I'm nearsighted so all I could actually see was the silhouettes coming down and you know, people kind of reaching up trying to grab people as they were coming down. People forward were running out screaming and hollering. People behind me were screaming and hollering. Somebody came by, grabbed a hold of me and moved me from where I was at down to a light post where they rushed

in gathering up the injured. Sat me down and ordered me to stay again. And then from there they continued to move the injured in packs out to where they had triage out by North Parking.

Once I got out to the triage area is where they ended up putting me into a, I guess it was a private van. They put me into a van and took me over to Arlington Emergency Care.

As for the time spent on all this, I could not tell you the time it took from the time that the plane hit the building until the time I actually ended up at Arlington I couldn't even tell you how long I was in smoke. Honestly, I can sit here and try to contemplate and think about it, but I couldn't tell you how long I was in there. It just felt like forever. Not long enough though, because I couldn't find my two guys.

Q. (16:16) Were you treated over at Arlington?

A. They evaluated me for smoke inhalation. They treated me with clear fluids and advised me to follow up in three days with Bethesda. They didn't want pneumonia to develop in the lungs. I did follow up at Bethesda. It did show that my lungs were clear.

I then escort Petty Officer Earhart home and then flew out to Matthew Flocco's funeral following that.

Q. (16:49) Who is Petty Officer Earhart?

A. Petty Officer Earhart, Aerographer's Mate, First Class, Surface Warfare. He was the first sailor identified. He was my leading Petty Officer, and he was a casualty.

Aerographer's Mate, Second Class Matthew Flocco was my other technician who was also a casualty.

Q. (17:09) So you were the escort for Petty Officer Earhart?

A. Yes ma'am. And I knew Petty Officer Earhart when he was an airman and we were stationed together in Pearl Harbor, and I was a Chief.

Q. (17:20) Where was he from?

A. He was from Morehead, Kentucky. And PO Flocco was from Delaware.

Q. (17:34) When you left Arlington were you confined to hospital or were you – ?

A. I was in urgent care.

Q. The urgent care. When you left there, can you talk about what happened next? Did your command know that you were there, or how did they find out what happened to you?

A. OK, when I was sitting out in North Parking, a lovely commander actually met me. There's a group of us, we were on this yellow cart that they use, somewhere along the way and on our way out, they had put us up, brought us on this yellow cart and some guy got on on the front and was driving it. When we got out to the grassy area out there, Commander came along side and she basically monitored me throughout the entire time frame. As I sat out there on the grass, I had several chaplains that come up and talked with me. When there was nobody around I would yell for a cell phone. Somebody came by and gave me a cell phone and I started punching in the office code numbers. Couldn't get through, of course, I've got a bunch of other people around me. Again, yell for another cell phone. Tried again, could not get through. When I finally got to urgent care in Arlington, they had a phone up on the wall in the room that they had put me in. And, the nurse had asked me if there was a local number that she could call to notify people and I gave her Commands, Command Duty Officer's number and of course, that's in Suitland, Maryland. She insisted on a local number, because they couldn't call long distance, so I gave her my phone number which was in Crofton, Maryland, and she OK, well that's another long distance. "Do you have a local number?"

And it's like, you know this is the initial numbers that really come to my mind and "No, I don't have a local one for you." As soon as she stepped out, somewhere in between the time frame of

the doctor coming in and another nurse popping in, I went to the phone on the wall and started punching in numbers. It took two tries before I actually got an outside line and called the Command Duty Office, and got a hold of the Command. Told them where I was at, told them that we could not find the two guys. That I had reported that they were still within the command center and what compartment that they were in. Gave the command my home phone number and insisted that they call my house. My mom is my dependent and she's an asthmatic, and I was concerned that she would hear about all this on TV, and you know, have an anxiety attack and have an asthma attack and that would add another major concern.

So after the Chief himself took all the information down, a nurse came by and said, "You really need to get off that line," unfortunately, they're blocking the outside line. So they tracked me down, (chuckle) so I had to hang up.

Yes, so they kept me in the back room for a while before the doctors were pretty much content with sending me out and discharging me. There was a very limited amount of O₂ that was available for any of the patients, be it there at the Pentagon, outside and also there at the Arlington Urgent Care.

Q (20:44) You were actually, didn't you end up somewhere between C and D corridors first?

A. Yes.

Q. OK, and then they took you out into the courtyard, or did you go right from there into North Parking?

A. We went from, we went to North Parking. We didn't go through the apex. We actually did, and that scared me, because as we got on this trolley, it was amazing how he was driving. Kind of outside and then back into the building, and then back outside again. And I got real nervous about them going back inside the building, but at that point in time all I could smell was smoke,

and I mean it was all over me and I just could not clear my lungs and I couldn't breath and it took everything for me just to sit still on the cart, that I wasn't even, at that point in time, can't communicate to them and say, 'Hey don't be stupid. Don't go back in the building.'" It was safer outside and those were just my thoughts. I could not convey any of that. But he got us in and out pretty quick. I'm just grateful he knew where he was going, because you don't want to get lost.

Q. (21:46) OK. When they let you leave the Urgent Care Clinic, then were you able to go home then? What happened next?

A. Yes, they sent an officer from Suitland, Ensign Montgomery out to my house and picked up my Mom. It took them awhile to navigate from Crofton, Maryland to the Urgent Care Center, basically because of the way the roads were blocked off, you know, the traffic that was out there. People going everywhere, but, yes, it was really, they eventually came by and picked me up and took me home.

Q. (22:11) What happened when you got home and your mom saw you?

A. Well she came into the hospital and saw me, and of course, immediately wanted to embrace me and I told her to take two steps back because the smoke would have flared up her asthma very quickly. She—"Be safe, you know, please I'm just covered in it." They brought a change of clothes for me, so I immediately stripped in the head and trashed that particular uniform, and once I got my overalls on, she was able to hug me. She took me home and I immediately got into a shower and I just could not get the smoke smell off me. I think I washed my hair six times that night, and could not get it, I mean I was ready to shave the hair, you know.

So as soon as I got home I was inundated with phone calls and just that, you know, from family and friends and things of that nature, but I was sure glad I got home that first night.

Q. (23:06) When did you go back to work and how did that happen? Did you—spaces were destroyed.

A. The second day I actually went into our command center. The National/Naval ICE Center. We're a component of the National/Naval ICE Center in Suitland, Maryland and I actually went back into that office that particular day after we were notified that they had found both of my guys and they were both dead. The skipper wanted my presence within the main command so I put on a white uniform and went back to work. I was paraded around the office so everybody could see there was at least one survivor and went back home.

I think it was three days after that I became the escort for Petty Officer Earhart and took him home. So once I got done with my escort duties, and got done with both funerals, I took a downtime of about four days and then went back into the OIC METOC component job and started briefing the Admiral.

Q. (234:11) When did that happen?

A. That would have been the 2nd of October.

Q. (24:20) Did the SPRINT Team have anything to do with you? Did you have anything to do with the SPRINT Team?

A. No.

Q. Haven't talked to them or anything?

A. No.

Q. (24:26) Are you aware of them?

A. Yes.

Q. Have they contacted you at all?

A. A nurse Hanson has been very persistent on getting a hold of me and she achieve her goal about a week ago. Otherwise that's the only person that has contacted me.

Q. (24:41) Do you have any feelings you want to share about that? You're smiling when I mentioned that.

A. (chuckle) Everybody brings up the SPRINT Team, I just haven't done anything with that.

Q. When you're ready, you think –

A. Everybody, their advice, I just tell them thank you. Go talk to them and well what am I going to tell them. I mean let's get real here folks, so I haven't gotten to them. I smile about it, as slap my hand, no, I haven't done it yet.

Q. (25:06) Yes, but you know it's there if you want to, right.

A. I've got a chaplain's phone number in my wallet if I do.

Q. (25:16) Can you think of any lessons learned that you can pass on ? Think about chain of command and how it worked and who was in charge and leadership things.

A. I don't know.

Q. Or even things that you wish had been there or had been set up differently, that would have maybe made things easier?

A. Damage Control, from the damage control training control I have had, if we'd had something. I mean we didn't even have the EBDs (Emergency Breathing Device) to get out of

the spaces that was filled with smoke. When you think about it we work inside a vault. There was two ways in and two ways out. I still don't even know how I got out. I walked the spaces with DC1 Smith, just before I went back to work, I started talking to a few people. DC1 Smith was up in OPNAV security and she got me into the spaces after they had pretty much, they had cleaned it out basically. We were walking through a parking lot and we were trying to walk the spaces to see how I actually got out. Because, you know, I don't recall ever going out a door. I didn't push out any doors, and the doors in the command center were very heavy. I don't recall. We believe I actually went out in a hole in the wall, but were not really sure exactly how I got out.

Now, espically where I ended up. I can recall I ended up there. We think we found the open airway that I got out of, but you know, there' nothing concrete above four.

Q. (26:48) Isn't that the counter drug. Connected to the counter drug spaces? We heard about that hole, the four by four-foot hole.

A. I'm not sure if it would have been that one or a different one. Again, when DC1 Smith took me down it was really hard for me to recognize where the spaces were, with exception of the trophy case. One was totally shattered and then there was another one that was perfect. The glass was perfect. It wasn't even broken, and it's just like "Hey, there's the trophy case."

She goes "Yes." So my office would have been right next to it. So we tried walking around to see where the light that I had found was that led me out. So we weren't quite sure.

Lessons learned. I think the fire fighting training that I have had over the years helped me out a lot. First time I really appreciated cold water, because the pipeline was busted. It was flushing out cold water and I did flush myself with the cold water before I progressed and moved on further. So any type of that fire fighting basic training stuff. I had actually splashed my face with it, before I had moved on. On to the second search.

Physical readiness training. I knew not to take deep breaths when I was in there. I exhaled a lot, and so did others constantly trying to maintain short breaths, rather than deep breaths.

The leadership training, not to panic in something of that issue. It would have been very easy for me to curl up and sit down in a ball. The thought had crossed my mind. The fact that we're supposed to act on something rather than just react.

Q. (28:38) It took a lot of strength didn't it to will yourself to move?

A. Yes, it did.

Q. I bet it did.

A. The first initial part, moving to find my guys was not a problem. That was a quick reaction. I wasn't under my desk very long. As soon as I knew the rumblings and stuff from my ceiling had stopped falling, I quickly moved out from my desk because I didn't want to get trapped in my compartment space. I would have been easily pinned down because I had a computer rack that sat forward of my door and had that of caved in it would have trapped me inside the compartment.

So I knew to move quickly. I knew smoke inhalation would take you down quickly, so I knew I had to get, to get to my guys and get them out. I think when I finally came back to the water line the second time is when the thought came to me, well, you know maybe this is just it. And it took a lot of energy to move me after that, or the idea (nervous chuckle) that I just wasn't going to quit. It's like, OK, maybe we ought to try this one more time. We've got to be here somewhere. So, yes.

Q (29:43) What keeps you strong now?

A. It's my job. I'm a leader. So I think it's the military training I've had. Being able to fall back on that and rely on that. I've got a Second Class that, the one who had the mid-watch. I've got to be strong for him. He's got to come into work and do his job everyday. He knew the guys better than I do. I've got a Senior Chief who was with the Chief select, in fact, we had talked to him on the phone that morning. He had called after the plane, after the World Trade Center, the first plane hit. We had gotten a call from him from that time frame before the second plane hit and we had actually talked to him on the phone. So my junior folks, you know, my people keep me going. They're the ones who keep me going in the Navy anyway. If it wasn't for them I think I would have gotten out years ago.

Q. (30:46) What does your mom think about you being in the Navy now? Does she say anything?

A. She, she's nervous that I still go to work at the Pentagon. That's her only concern. A sailor is just something that she knows I am. That's just who I am. That's not a problem. The fact that I go back to the Pentagon everyday, it makes her unhappy. She's anxious about it. She's very upset that we all allowed ourselves to become susceptible to terrorism. She doesn't understand how we did that so she's got a lot of questions where it comes to— but as for me being a sailor, she knows that's just who I am.

My Dads pretty upset about it, too. He thinks the country has failed me. Quote unquote. He said, I was talking to him on the phone and I'm not very close to my father, but I was talking to him on the phone and he says, "You know, you've been out to sea. You've been in foreign countries. You've been on multi-deployments, why would you be in danger at your own headquarters? That just made no sense to me. That you would come so close to dying in your own headquarters." So he was pretty taken back by it. Next question. (laugh)

Q. (32:13) Anything else that you want to add that we haven't asked you about.?

A. I think the people who stepped forward to help the different rescues were outstanding. It was amazing how the, people just, out of the woodwork they came, marched out.

Q. (32:28) Were there any people that you can think of in particular that we should talk to?

A. I was not able to get any of the names, but there were a ton of people that had, I mean they were just, instead of running for their lives, they're running in to it. But unfortunately there was not any fire fighting equipment for them to utilize to do any type of really, there were a lot of rescues done, but without the proper equipment their lives were in danger and that also limited them on how much they could do. I was just amazed by that.

Q. (33:13) Any other people that you can think of that we should talk to?

A. Photographs. Have you guys gotten photographs of the Navy Command Center itself? I know LCDR Watts, Missy Watts went down and took photos.

Q. (33:31) Where is she located in there?

A. She's actually working out of here at the annex.

Q. She's a seaman.

A. She's in the IT department for the Navy Command Center. In fact she was the one I was talking to went over and talked to us.

Q. Oh, OK.

A. And then Lt (jg) Jim McDonner, who also works for N3/N5.

Q. And they both took pictures?

A. They both took pictures. I've got one set for you on a zip drive.

Q. Oh, thank you that is so great.

A. I don't know how wonderful they are, but.

Q. Thank you very much.

A. You're welcome. I believe those are the ones from Jim McDonner. I'm, pretty sure those are from him, and then Missy wants to do it also, and went down to do photos. I was unable to copy them to a zip drive, plus her modem doesn't have a zip drive. I'll find a way to get them to you. I'm still working on that.

Q. (34:34) Thank you very much, very much.

A. You're welcome.

Transcribed by:
Ms. Ethel Geary
10 Feb 2002