

**Naval Historical Center
Oral Interview Summary Form**

Interviewers:

Capt(sel) Michael McDaniel

Interviewer's Organization:

Navy Historical Center

Interviewee:

CDR Craig Powell

Current Address:



Work – N751

Date of Interview:

29 Oct 2001

Place of Interview:

Navy Annex

Number of Cassettes:

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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: CDR Powell grew up living overseas because his father worked for Firestone Tires and traveled extensively. He came back to the US because he wanted to get an American History class before he went to college. Attended University of Cincinnati because it had the best rugby coach. He graduated with an engineering degree. While playing rugby he met someone in the Navy. He was always interested in the SEALs. He joined the Navy in March 1982, attending OCS in July 1982. Finished BUDS July 15, 1983. Commands include SEAL TEAM SIX as an Element Leader, Platoon Leader and Training Officer at SEAL TEAM TWO, Troop Leader and OIC of a squadron of the Special Boat Service (SBS) on exchange while participating in the Gulf War. At Navy Special Warfare Development Group served as a Gray Team Leader. Went to Hawaii as Executive Officer of SDBT ONE. Attended Naval War College for one year. Became the Defense Attaché for Jamaica for two years. Checked into the Pentagon on 5 September 01.

Topics Discussed:

On 11 September it was the first day he had his Pentagon badge and could log onto the computer. He hadn't changed his clothes yet, but was trying to work on the computer. About 0930 he heard about the World Trade Center being flown into. His office was 5C 455/454 in the C ring wedge. Parts of the aircraft went underneath his office and to the side.

N751 falls under Navy Expeditionary Warfare (basically Navy SEALs). The office had just been moved into the spaces about two weeks earlier. On that day two military members were in Coronado, CA at a conference. In the office were the CDR, Mark Pugh (a civilian worker), LT Sell (another SEAL officer), two contractors and another commander. They had turned on the

TV to watch the president's speech and about the World Trade Center. As they were watching he felt the building shake. He knew that they shock wave was not a high order explosive and the way the building shook he knew it had been hit. He put two and two together and knew a plane had hit the building underneath them because the shock wave came from below his body. The ceiling started to fall down. Two people were on the ground. He carefully opened the door and looked out, seeing black smoke coming down the hallway. He told everyone to get out and grabbed his backpack at the last minute. (He carries flashlights, knives, etc. in his backpack). The fire door started to shut in the hallway and he pushed it open. There were people running down the hallways.

He exited down corridor 4 to the center ring and down the escalators. Even at this point Marines had stationed themselves at the top of the escalators trying to calm people down and maintain order. This allowed people to make a hurried, orderly departure from the building. They went into the courtyard. He didn't want to go to the courtyard because he figured that would be another good point for attack. He went down to the bottom floor and saw many wounded coming from corridor 4 on the bottom level. He went down towards where the wounded were coming from. It was smoky; you could tell there was a fire. The walls were buckled and parts of ceiling were hanging down.

He found a large black lady, holding her head, stumbling. She said the ceiling had fallen on her in the bathroom. He passed her off to another person and followed the corridor full of smoke looking for the bathroom, in case another person was trapped in there.

He went through the inner corridor, assuming he was still in corridor 4, through another set of glass doors. It was very smoky, walls and partitions falling down, you could tell a fire was near.

From the C ring came a female LT(jg) with a black sweater, stumbling around. She looked dazed and was soaking wet. She was trying to tell him people were trapped in the Navy Command Center. She mentioned two names and tried to tell him how to get there. She started in that direction and he passed her off to an Air Force guy to take her out of the building and he headed in that direction. It was black, smoky and no lights. He was all by himself and decided it wasn't too smart to go down that hallway. He started back out to go for help.

As he came through the glass doors he saw a light in a haze and walked towards that light. He found himself in a tunnel (the opening between D and C ring). There were a bunch of people scurrying and running and more people hanging out of a window with smoke billowing out of it. They had been able to pry one corner of the window out. Two people were partly out of the window and people on the ground were trying to help them get down. He told the people they were going to have to jump and they made a human net. He helped catch 4 people who walked away and the fifth person came flying out the window as they caught the fourth person. He pushed at her to get her horizontal and he thinks she was on the news with a broken leg. There were two people left in the room, one a female LTCOL who wouldn't jump. Someone found a ladder but it wouldn't reach. They climbed on a dumpster and put the ladder on one person's shoulders so as the people hung out the window they could step on the ladder and climb down. The LTCOL got out and was worried about the other people trapped in the building.

They then went into another part of the building (the Command Center) where there were three holes. There was fire in the background inside the holes. The first hole was open but they couldn't get inside. They tried the middle hole but it was blocked up. People kept rotating into the hole trying to pull out parts and pieces. Since he didn't have a uniform on he was trying to

do different things and had to expend time telling people whom he was (a Navy SEAL Commander) to get them to listen to him. Many people were trying to help but didn't know what to do standing around ineffectively. Eventually they realized the third hole was the avenue to get to the people. They got two petty officers out. One was trying to tell them someone's head was trapped. He got into the room and around the corner. The room was on fire. They were trying to pull stuff out of the way. He lifted some things off a table so LCDR Tarentino could lift the table with his legs and free Mr. Hinson. Since Mr. Hinson's head wasn't bloody he thought the guy with the head stuck was still in there. Electric outlets are sparking, stuff was dripping off the ceilings, things continued to fall. He held up the ceiling and told everyone to get out. They got out but the ceiling did not immediately collapse.

The fireman then showed up and they went into the space. CDR Powell gave him a sitrep of where he had been told different groups of trapped people were located. LT Sell, Lt Stratton, and LTCOL Kaiser (USMC) were all there. They were standing by stretchers ready to take out the injured to triage. It was smoky and it looked like the windows were going to explode. They got under an archway in case the building started to collapse. They waited for more people to evacuate and then were told to get out of the building because another plane was coming in. They everyone out of the building and there was no one else waiting, the last person said, "Last man". LTCOL Kaiser with his uniform and oak leaves took control and people responded to him because of his clothing and demeanor.

They headed out corridor 7 and saw some medical people who they told to get out of the building. They said they needed help pulling medical supplies. There was a locked medical trauma cabinet that people were trying to break. CDR Powell and LT Sell grabbed the cabinet and down to the street. CDR Powell then went to a female major in charge of the triage and identified himself as an EMT. They then got into 10 teams of 10 to go into the building when it was all clear. LTCOL Kaiser was lining up the groups of 10. They went back into the building. LTCOL Kaiser, CDR Powell and LT Sell went in with the firefighters to work with the firefighters to coordinate the help for evacuating people. There was water everywhere, body parts, etc. The firefighters were trying to get into the spaces; the first floor was impenetrable because the ceiling had collapsed.

The FBI wanted recovery teams then and wanted everyone to go back outside to form these teams up.

Lessons Learned:

Everybody made use of the materials and people who were there and the training they had to do the best they could. It would be unreasonable to have a Damage Control locker every few feet. He feels there was an 80% result with what was available and with more equipment there wouldn't have been much more accomplished than was. We are doing the right thing training our people and following the chain of command.

He went into automatic when he saw the smoke. This is because of his Navy training.

It would have been nice to have a complete uniform communications system that a person would have essential control and there were radios for different people. Breathing apparatus and ropes would have been nice. He was hoping he would find a repair locker, as would be found on a

ship. Having central communications would have allowed them to tell where trapped people had been found and when and how many had been recovered.

Abstracted by:
CDR Carol O'Hagan
21 NOV 01

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Topics Discussed:

Transcription begins (03:33)

A. It was the first day I had my badge and all my accoutrements to do my job so I immediately sat down at the computer trying to log in and see different things. I had not changed my clothes, which later on I reflected was probably a good and a bad deal. So I was working on the computer

trying to search some things out, and just working on it, and about 9:30 plus or minus we had heard about the World Trade Center being flown into, being bombed.

Q. (04:07) Craig, where was your office?

A. My office was 5 Charlie 455, 454 but it was in the C ring of the wedge that was actually hit. In retrospect when we went back and looked at it, parts of the aircraft went underneath our office and to the northeast, which means the side of the office, so we had fuselage under and to the side, but we were fortunately not hit.

Q. (04:33) Tell me about the office you worked in. What was the office and who was there? Who worked there? What was -?

A. Well, N751 falls under Navy Expeditionary Warfare and that is basically Navy Special Warfare SEALs. The issue, or the part about is somewhat, we had to go some place, so that's where we were. We, I hadn't been there, but the people in the office just moved there about two or three weeks ago. The office is normally manned by Captain Dave Jones, Lieutenant Commander Chris Christensen, Lieutenant Sell, a civilian named Mark Pugh and then obviously for four days, myself.

At the time of the attack both Captain Jones and Commander Christensen were in Coronado at a conference. In the office was myself, Lieutenant Sell, Mark Pugh and three other people who I don't know. There were two contractors and another Commander or something I was told. I don't remember him. I just remember two civilians in the office. But we were in our office. We had turned on the TV to watch the President's speech and also about the Trade Center Bombing,

Q. (05:51) How did you hear about the Trade Center Bombing?

A. One of the guy's girlfriends called him on the cell phone or wife called him on the cell phone, or someone called out. But they said it, I'm not sure if I saw both of them or one of them burning, can't remember at this time, because the TV kept showing it back and forth and I can't remember what was the original and what wasn't. I do remember watching the President's speech. He finished, you know, "God bless the victims. God Bless their families. God bless America." He turned to his right and started to walk off and as he started to walk off, the building shook and I knew instinctively would be the only reason that we'd been hit by a plane. The things that cued it to me were I'm very familiar with high order explosives, and because I was familiar, the shock waves, not the concussion but the shock waves that went through the building, the kinetic energy that transferred through was not sharp enough to be a high order explosive. It was a low order explosion. The way the building rattled and shook, it felt like it had been struck. So putting two and two together, you know, and watching TV, I knew a plane had hit the building. I knew the plane had hit the building underneath us, because the shock waves came up through my body from down, across and up. So I knew in fact, you know, the event had happened underneath me, and you know, pretty much the ceiling started to come—the ceiling, you know, parts of the ceiling, you know it was one of those lowered ceilings. Parts started coming down, I don't know if two of the people are knocked to their feet or they dove to the ground, but two people were on the ground. I then realized it's not smart to be sitting in this room. There was no windows or anything. I opened the door carefully, not knowing if there would be a fireball running down the hallway or anything. I looked out. There was some black smoke that was starting to come down from the left-hand side of our hallway. I told everybody to get out, and they all started to leave and then at the last minute I reached down and grabbed my backpack thinking—I carry stuff in my backpack, knives, and flashlights and first aid kits and all the be-prepared stuff that Boy Scouts carry. So I figured I might need that. I grabbed the backpack and I went out, and right at our office side there's a flexible partition door that shuts

for fires. And it started to shut so I pulled that open. I went out, looked down the hallway. There was smoke coming down the hallway. I can't remember now if people were running down that hallway behind me, or it was the next hallway I checked as I exited.

I exited down, it was probably corridor 4 and it went right through the center ring and then we had a new section that had escalators going down.

One point I want to point out is that even by this time and this was minutes after the attack, people were hurrying out of the building, but the Marines had already stood themselves at the top of the escalators and at the doorways and just telling everybody to relax and be calm. And at that time we didn't know if another plane was going to hit, the building was going to explode or anything. Nobody really knew what was going on, but here were the Marines, standing as Marines do. Telling everybody to be calm and it wasn't like they were trying to hurry everybody out so they could follow us out. They were just talking, you know, calm down, blah, blah, blah. And so everybody made a hurried, hastily, orderly departure from the building.

Like I said, I had just left Defense Attaché Jamaican, and as you go to the second floor, you go out in the courtyard, and I remember thinking in my mind that, 'I don't want to go out into that courtyard, because there's another plane or some other plane. That's exactly how I would wax all the people.

So I figured I would go down to the next floor which is the very bottom, and I'm not very, very—I'm not at all familiar with the Pentagon, but, so I took another escalator to give me time to think about what I wanted to do. And when I got down to the bottom, I saw a bunch of people that had been hit in the head that were bleeding, and people had bandages or handkerchiefs on their head and they were walking out, and they were basically coming from back in a corridor, which I will learn now is corridor 4 on the bottom level. So I decided to go back there to see if I could do something, or I don't know. I felt like I needed to go that way, so I followed my instinct. Plus it felt better than going outside, and I saw people coming out. I searched, and there

was nobody by that time in the hallways or anything. It was kind of walking into a deadly—it was smoky. You could tell there was a fire. Even at that lower floor the walls were kind of buckled, and there were parts of ceiling hanging down. I can't remember if a sprinkler was running at that time or not, but further excursions back, because I would go back and forth several times through the course of the day, that floor became flooded with water. But again I don't remember the sprinklers going down.

I found a large black lady in a sweater and a gray skirt, holding her head, stumbling and I asked her if she needed any help. If I could help her and she said she'd been in the bathroom and the ceiling had fallen on her while she was in the bathroom.

I don't know where the bathrooms are, but I told her, you know, I tried helping her. Somebody came along so I passed the lady off, and I wanted to know where the bathroom was in case somebody else was in the bathroom.

So I followed the corridor into the black smoke, figuring I'll look for a bathroom to see if anybody else is in the bathroom or if anybody else was trapped or caught.

I proceeded on. I went through an open area which is the inner courtyard between B and C ring. At the time I really didn't know that that was an inner courtyard or anything like that. I was just going through these glass doors, assuming I was continuing down corridor 4, though this is actually an opening that goes out into the inner courtyard, and I didn't realize it. I just went through these glass doors, continued on to the next set of glassed doors. I think they were open. They may have been closed, I don't know. As I walked into there, now it's really black. It's really smoky. You can tell there's a fire, or something's happening and walls and partitions are falling down, so there's a state of collapse.

Out of the, I would assume it was the C ring hallway, came a female Ensign. She was stumbling around. She had on a black sweater. Man, and she looked like she was very, very dazed. I caught her. She was soaking wet and she was trying to tell me people were trapped in the Navy

Command Center and I said, “Well, where’s that?” She blurted out, she mentioned two names, which I didn’t understand, and then she says, like “1C 464.” The numbers may be, but it’s something like that. So she started going out that direction, so I headed back in toward— somebody took the Ensign from me and walked her out. I later found out that it was an Air Force guy named Farberskill (phonetic) or something, but that was just through talking to other people. I then started to walk down and it was black, smoky and it was dark. There was no lights down there. I can’t remember, she was all wet, but I don’t remember sprinklers going off. I started to go down that hallway and then I thought that’s not really too brilliant because I was completely by myself.

You know, if I had an EBA, (Emergency Breathing Apparatus), and a flashlight and maybe a rope or something, it would make a lot of sense, and if somebody else knew what I was doing. But totally by myself, I thought as well, I’ll probably add to the casualties here and that’s not the smartest thing.

So I started to go back out to look for help. As I came through the glass doors, I looked over to my left and here was a light through a haze. So I walked out into that light and I was actually in a tunnel and I walked out and that’s the opening between B and C ring, the inner courtyard. To my left there was a bunch of people scurrying and yelling. I looked up and there was a bunch of people hanging out a window and the smoke was just billowing out just like in the movies. They were able to have pried and bent one of the corners of the window out and two people were kind of getting most of their body out and screaming. Everybody else looked like their lips were trying to come through the window, trying to suck the clear air.

They were trying to figure out ways to help them get down. People looking for ladders and all sorts of different methods and means, but it was fairly understood the only way they were going to get out of there before they died was to jump.

There was, it seemed to be longer than this story, but you know, we tried different things. They tried a ladder. None of it was going to work. So finally ended up people were saying, “Hold on! Hold on! I said it's risky. “No, you're going to have to jump. Just jump.” And I tried to get everybody to make a human net, kind of like the cheerleaders do, but—the intention was there, the execution didn't happen the way it was intended. They lowered a lady out as far as they could out the window and then left her go, and then we were going to catch her, but it seemed like I ended up catching all of them. At least that's my perspective. You know, there might have been four other people there or five other people and they all thought they caught her as well. But with them coming down with their feet first, it's kind of hard. You kind of squeeze them tight and squat at the same time trying to minimize the impact. I think I was successful catching four people only because they all were able to walk away. That's an indicator that nothing was broken, but that doesn't mean much.

The fifth person while we were catching the fourth person, or I was catching the fourth person—you had to kind of catch them like an egg, You had to squat down and one of the times when I did catch one of them, I can't remember which one, I really pulled my quad, but you still have to catch the other ones.

Anyway, this fifth person, as we caught the fourth one, just came flying out the window. I think she was in a hurry to get out because the smoke and fire etc. I can't blame her, but she came out so quickly that it looked like she jumped. I think someone was trying to help her out, but whether she fussed or twisted, but anyway she came flying out, and I pushed at her so that I could kind of send her horizontal, instead of vertical. I think there was a lady on the news the other night with a broken leg. Putting one and one together, because there was another lady next to her who was supposed to have been entrapped in that room, and I'll talk about her in a second. Anyway, I'm pretty sure that was the lady that broke her leg, was the one I pushed horizontally, and maybe

she wouldn't have broke her leg, but maybe she would have broken something else. I'm not so certain on that one.

Then after we had those five people out or whatever there was two more people trapped in the room, and the second lady I mentioned she was a Lieutenant Colonel type, wasn't coming out. She wasn't going to jump. She was really scared. Well, in the course of this, while we tried to get the people –

Q. (17:12) How far was this? Second story?

A. Well up the second story. Somebody brought a ladder. Now even if we put the ladder up and I climbed up on the ladder and we lowered the person down, that person wouldn't be able to land on my shoulders. So the ladder we'll say is six foot. I'm six foot, and the person we'll say lowered down was six foot, so that's eighteen feet. So the bottom edge of the top window, or the second floor was still more than twenty feet up there, at least.

What we ended up doing was—like I said somebody grabbed a ladder but it wasn't going to reach. We pulled a dumpster over and then we climbed up on the dumpster. Put the ladder on our shoulders. Now the person that ended up bearing all that weight was Lieutenant Colonel Dick Currera (phonetic). He put that on his shoulders and then I held the ladder. Then once that ladder was far enough, if the people hung out the window their toes would be able to touch the ladder. Really they wouldn't. I ended up pushing the ladder up a little bit so that they could step on it and as the weight came, I lowered the ladder onto the Colonel's shoulders and then they were able to climb down.

As that was happening, I asked the two extra people to hop up the thing to support it left and right and then somebody else helped support it from behind, because, especially when the female was coming down, she kind of leaned back and would have pried it off the wall.

Then she came down and the reason why she's of interest, I found out later that Lieutenant Sell had been working with the lady that had to be inhaled; that passed out; that they couldn't find a pulse. It turned out to be this female Lieutenant Colonel who ended up being in the TV next to the lady with the broken leg. That's how I kind of tied this all together.

Anyway, she came out, even though she was scared, she was hysterical. Well, maybe hysterical may be too much of a word. The biggest thing she was worried about was the other people that were still trapped inside the building. You know, "You've got to help them! You've got to help them! You've got to help them!" That's all she would say. I mean that was her, her focus in life was to get those people out.

They were on the second floor and regrettably there was no way we were able to get to the second floor, period. It just wasn't the—the fire, the flames—latter on we found out the second and third were so engulfed in flames that the firemen just blocked the port and starboard side of it and just let the fire burn out. They weren't even going to go down and fight it because of the collapsing building and stuff like that.

Anyway, she came down, the Colonel came down and we tried to go in—at first I thought they were trying to go in and rescue these people on the second floor, but in hindsight, the people we ended up rescuing are the people in the Command Center I mentioned earlier. But there were like three great big holes in the side of the building. Huge holes where it must have been the projectiles from the—you know, when the plane hit it shattered, and things just kept going through and basically made Swiss cheese out of D and C ring and these were part of the Swiss cheese holes.

There were three holes. The one closest to the window was the largest. Then there was a little one and then another one. That was fairly large. There was fire going on in the background the entire time. The fire was worse in the third hole to the right. It was really a conflagration. It was

just burning, and trying to get into that hole was impossible really. I mean you could have stepped over the trash, but once you stepped over the trash you stepped into the fire.

The first hole was open and we thought that would be the first avenue in to try and get to these people, but it wasn't. It didn't work. Dick Correra (phonetic) went to the left in the smoke and virtually worked his way back out, but couldn't go to the right where the people were at.

We kept trying to get into the right and then we tried the middle hole, but it was all blocked up and kept going in the middle hole, kept going in the middle hole. People kept rotating into that hole trying to pull parts and pieces out and it did get jammed up, because so many people were trying to help, bits and pieces.

Different things that happened that were out of order. People were wetting t-shirts, putting them on the face to go into the hole. Several of us rolled in the water to keep wet. One of the things I mentioned earlier was that I was in my civilian clothes, which was good because I had cotton on and our uniforms have got nylon, which helps you melt. But because I didn't have a uniform on, I didn't have rank, and I was trying to get people to do different things. If you have an oak leaf on your collar or a star or an eagle, you can get better response. So I have to, will say, expend time trying to explain to people, who and what I was.

“Look I'm a Navy SEAL, I'm a Commander, trying to get a bona fide, so they'll realize that I'm not some sort of idiot running around.

There were several things. A lot of people were trying to help, but they didn't know what to do. There was a lot of people standing around, just totally ineffective trying to do something or just, they really weren't productive anyway. And this second hole that we were trying to do, eventually we were able to realize that this was the avenue to get to these people.

Some of this is out of sequence. It's kind of tricky now, but the events that led up to, we'll say rescue two after catching the people out of the window, what happened was is, we were trying to breaking, trying to break in, trying to break in. And again it's out of sequence. At one time an

Air Force Surgeon General three-star showed up with a medivac team, four people. Two of the AMPs and Louise tried to go into the point to help. Now at this time, they would have been there only as rescue workers trying to pull people out, because we hadn't gotten anybody out yet, I remember two other people turning and going in. and I'm pretty sure that was Dave Tarantino (LCDR Dave Tarantino) and Dave Thomas (CAPT Dave Thomas). I'm not a hundred percent certain of that.

I did see Dave Tarantino. He had a visitors badge on because he forgot his badge that day. I talked to him. I can't remember if it was before he went in the first time or after. It's out of sequence to me, you know. However, we went in and we kept trying to bring it out and sometime in that sequence, after the AMPs had gone in, I think, two Petty Officers came out. Both black, both in white uniforms, a female and a male, and the female was making a comment like, "Mr. arerarer (imitates garbled words from the female) head was trapped." I later found out it was "Mr. Henson's head was trapped." So I didn't see anybody with any head injuries per se, so I figured he was still in there and I went into it.

Now this hallway is backed up and crowded with a lot of people. It's like, you know, trying to tell somebody to get out of the way so that you can go rescue, wasn't going to work. So basically you had to wiggle your way past the people to get in. Fortunately, the General that had shown up, we were able to pull some people out so that we had a clear access and then the people that were pulling the parts and pieces out were able to get the trash and the stuff out of the way so people could get in the room.

Now, I was able to get into the room and around the corner of this main entrance. Mr. Henson and Dave Tarantino, Dave Thomas from my recollection, the room was on fire. There was a bit of a space, a bit of a hole where we were able to pull the crap out of the way to get in to go in and rescue these people.

Dave Tarantino and Thomas can work their part of the issue. I was in there in the room. It was on fire. We were just trying to pull stuff out. I couldn't get low enough to actually see everything I needed to see. First of all it was black and it was fiery, but because of my leg, I couldn't get down. I was pulling things. I was told by the General that I had lifted up the table that freed Hanson, but as far as I'm concerned that was actually Tarantino pushing with his legs that freed him. I may have lifted some stuff that took the weight off the table that allowed Tarantino. I really don't know enough about that, that confused issue. But I was in there trying to get—now we know—Mr. Henson out.

Now, Mr. Henson came out. They had a bandage on his—they covered him up and anyway he came out. After that and I learned later on it was Dave Tarantino again. He was calling for a flashlight because we were looking for extra people. Now, I did note when Henson came out he wasn't a guy with a real mangled, bloody head, or anything like that. So I still thought there was somebody still in there, because of what the Petty Office had said. And anyway, everybody's looking around for flashlights and stuff like that.

Now we've gotten Henson out. The fire's going on, but the ceilings going to come down sometime, you could tell. It's hot, we're in a metal cage. There's now, over there's an electric outlet that's flashing, sparking. Which I later find out has zapped Tarantino a couple of times. But it's a metal case and if it's a metal case it's going to transmit. There's slag dripping off the ceilings which we were later to figure out was probably a solvent that held the cage for the SCIF (Special Compartmented Information Facility).

You didn't want to look up, because you didn't know what was going to fall down in your face and stuff like that. So the third time was, I was certain the ceiling was going to come down so I pushed it up and I was holding the wire cage that held the ceiling down and told everybody, "Hey, ceilings going to come down. Get out!"

So I was holding up the ceiling and then everybody came out, and then I let it go. Now, the ceiling didn't come down, crash and it came down, but the wire mesh and stuff held it in place and then we came out. It was later to crash down. Now, I find this out after the fact, talking to Dave Tarantino and also to Mr. Henson, probably a week or two ago. At that time, you know I thought there was still somebody else in the room. And you know, I always wondered after the fact when you start kibitzing yourself if I had said anything, could we have got that other person out. Could we have waited that extra two minutes, because the ceiling didn't collapse at that time? It collapsed a little bit later. So in the delta time between me letting go of the ceiling and the ceiling actually collapsed, if we had kept that time that much longer could we in fact have saved that other person that was in the room?

There was mentioned after another discussion that there was somebody else in the room and they tried to find them and they couldn't find them. I only found out later on that the person was dead, however he wasn't in the room. He had left the room earlier and was killed because of the crash because he wasn't in the room. So there were three people in the room and three people were got out. So basically that gives closure that the three people were rescued. So anyway –

Q. (28:25) Was the other person Jeff Scott?

A. Yes, it was, and obviously I found that out after the fact, So, you know, we're busy catching people and then trying to get Henson out and then holding the ceiling up to get the people out of the room. That's pretty much the rescue story.

The rest of the story to carry on is that we came out. We still weren't sure if there was somebody trapped, but about that time, minutes one way or the other, the police, I mean the firemen had shown up and we then allowed them to go in the space. I told the fire chief, or whatever senior guy there how I felt people were up on the second floor. There were twenty people there. I was told there were six people trapped here, three people trapped—at various locations of the

Command Center. Trying to give him a sitrep of where there were people, whether they were alive or not at that time, remains to be—well, I guess we won't know that.

However, they started going in the hole we were at trying to make penetrations, and the ceiling had collapsed by that time. So they tried to go around. What we did was, we the people that were standing around, and the people that I know were there were Lieutenant Owen Sell, Lieutenant Jeff Scott and I know them because they are both SEALs, and a Lieutenant Colonel Giles Kaiser who is a Marine. There was also a Master Sergeant Rose, who I think the Army's already talked to him about it, and Lieutenant Correra (phonetic), and there's an Air Force guy as well. But there was the Marine and the two Navy guys.

What happened was somebody had shown up earlier and said, "You need any stretchers?" and whether it was the general, somebody said yes. Where in this series of events, I don't remember. But anyway what happened was we were all kind of standing by these stretchers ready to bring out the bodies of the injured to take them to a triage. It was very smoky. It was very fiery at the time and it did look like, you know, the windows were going to explode and stuff like that so I told them, "Let's get underneath this archway." It's the tunnel that I mentioned earlier, which is a passageway, so if the building does blow, because we didn't have helmets or nothing, we'd be safe. And the walls could have collapsed at that time, too, but right now I was more worried about flying glass.

Anyway, we came back out. We kind of fatted back and forth waiting for these people and then sometime they said, "You've got to get out of here. We're evacuating. Another plane's coming in."

So we—I can't remember there was one of the Defense Protection Services. Anyway, I went back out to where he was. He seemed to be the last guy and we kind of herded everybody back all the way through. We got them out of the passageways, out of the building. There wasn't anybody left behind. One of the neat things was, I can't remember who it was, whether it was in

the room, I just remember as he came out, he said, "Last man," and that's maybe not in Navy training, but obviously in warfare, you know, the last man comes out and therefore you know you're done and you're doing head counts.

So it was kind of neat how all the people fell into place and did their role. You didn't, you know they just fell into the role that they were able to accomplish and do and stuff like that.

For example, Colonel Kaiser, Lieutenant Colonel type, there was enough strong backs and weak minds to do that type of work, but somebody needed to be in charge and he placed himself in charge. He has oak leaves. Everybody knew it and he started giving orders. Even though there was a general there, if people responded, it was Colonel Kaiser's presence I would say that everybody responded to. You know they're in uniform. They know it. He's there; he's not flinching, and telling everybody what to do.

I remember going up to him a couple of times trying to get him to bark out commands because I couldn't, because I didn't have any uniform on so to speak. And at least if they see a guy in uniform or something like that, you know. So anyway that was kind of an offhand.

Then anyway the people headed out the building. We went across the courtyard, Again, as we went out, it's like this is now the time, you know, you're in the middle of the open. It was, at that time, pretty much evacuated. Everybody else had moved out of the building completely. We were very much the last group to go. We went through it and then we headed out corridor 7. The corridor that the POAC (Pentagon Officer Athletic Club) and the corridor 8 where the clinic is, and on the way out, I think it was Colonel Kaiser, there was a medicalist that said, "Do you need any help?" Because they were still at the clinic, and they said, or we told them to get out of the building and they said fine, but they were trying to pull medical supplies. We said, "Do you need any help?" They said, "Yes." So about four or five of us kind of detoured and ran into the clinic and there was a—I think she was enlisted, she could have been a doctor for all I know, but she was in PT gear—pointed and we ran, followed her and there was a medical trauma cabinet. It

was locked so somebody tried to break the thing to pull the stuff out and that didn't make any sense. So Owen Sell, who's a SEAL and I said grab a hold Owen and we just grabbed the thing and drug the entire cabinet out of the clinic, around the corner, blah, blah, blah. Up and down and around, all the way across the POAC to the street and I would say it was fortunate that we did, because I know that they went in and they tried to get masks and stuff, breathing masks, gloves, different things for immediate trauma and stuff. As soon as we got it out on the street people were pulling parts and pieces out of it. So we left it, once we got across the other side of the street it was there and then the medical people were able to get what they wanted out of it. We walked away and there was a female major that seemed to be, have control of the triage. So I went up to her and told her I was an EMT, and if she needed any help let me know. She said, "Can you just stand over there with everybody else right now and I'll come and get you. Right now we've got this handled."

What happened was is the General that I mentioned earlier had come back and we were going to make a re-entry in the building when it was all clear. It's a little bit rushed, I'm sure. We went over there waiting for the plane to hit. Then we found out it was all clear, anyway, something like that.

We got up in lines of about ten teams of ten or something like that and we're all going to go back in the building and the MPs are in the front and Colonel Kaiser was organizing this group at the direction or request of the general. In other words, the general was giving out orders, so to speak, or trying to organize rescue teams, whatever. The person that was doing that was Colonel Kaiser. Lined them up in groups of ten and brought the MPs to the front. Anyway, we all decided to go back in and this was pretty much going to be a recovery effort in my mind as opposed to a rescue by this late in the game with the fire and stuff. So we went back in and across the courtyard and at this time there were people that had set up kind of triage locations there, and we were able to

tell the Lieutenant Colonel, “This is where you need to stay. You need to do the triage. We’ll go in and we’ll bring out the people and you can treat them. “

So he started organizing the triage stations and stuff like that. We had everybody lined up.

People had filtered back into the Pentagon after we’d left, obviously, and they were there when we came back in mass.

Again, Colonel Kaiser, we’re were able to do it and we set these teams up to come in. But we didn’t want them to come in there. We saw the fire team that was at the place fighting the fire that we originally went in. We talked to them. We all went back in. We being myself, Lieutenant Sells and Colonel Kaiser all went in with those guys, with the idea being that we –

Q. (36:39) What—the fire team?

A. Yes, the firefighters from the, the local firefighters, not our firefighters, not military, but the city firefighters. We went back in with them with the idea being to liaison. I went in because I was an EMT, and we could do the initial stuff there, and then Kaiser was there just the point man, the conduit and then Sell would be able to run back and forth passing information or whatever they need be.

So all three of us went in there and by that time it was pretty much a mess. It was under water.

There was debris. All this was there before, I just didn’t bother to express it, you know, but there was parts and pieces. There were plane fuselage that had gone through the building, impacted up on the B ring. There were body parts that were part of that stuff. Whether it was a person walking down the hallway at the wrong place, the wrong time or somebody in the airplane, I don’t know. Your imagination is as good as mine.

FBI would come in later on, and try and parts and pieces, draw pictures and pick up body parts and take photographs. Firefighters were continued, trying to get in. Sometime, originally before we left the first time, somebody had brought out a high pressure water sprayer trying to fight the

fire. But they weren't able to figure out A) how to turn on the hose and hook it up and all these different things. So the firefighters were trying to get into the, into the spaces, and like I told you the wall had collapsed. They tried to go in from the sides. They didn't, but eventually, the second and third floor were just totally on fire. First floor because there was underneath was impounded upon the ceilings. They collapsed, and they just couldn't get in and they didn't have any water pressure.

Again, we're standing around. I got the water pump to work and it wasn't, just wasn't enough. There was no volume; there was a mist. We could have sprayed it on the person going in to try and keep them, but the firefighters didn't need that. That would have been for somebody dressed like I was.

I do know that it was really smoky. The walls were starting to bulge. One of the things, none of us including the firefighters were certain that in fact the building wasn't going to collapse. At least the C ring part of the building was going to implode into the B ring, or into the courtyard, because there was nothing holding it up. That didn't happen, but you know, I would say at that time, 'I'm saying, hum, it's probably not the best place to be standing.'

We really didn't have too many options and then later on the fire was, I'll say isolated. It wasn't fought, but it was isolated and then we were still walking around standing by to do recovery work and basically after a while they said, "No, we're not going to do any recovery. We're going to let this burn out, fight the fire. "So there's no need for us. I can't remember, this is probably now by twelve o'clock, one o'clock, I mean at least, different times and stuff like this.

We then ended up talking to the FBI and they said they're going to need recovery teams, but what they did was they wanted all the teams to go back outside to the impact, because that's where their command center had been set up and stuff. So we took our groups of people, most of them were left there doing triage and stuff. And, again, the strong backs weak minds, there was

probably twenty, thirty of us with Colonel Kaiser, again. The Air Force general stayed there because that was the medical triage place, standing by, body recovery, you know.

There was all sorts of weird questions, “Well, where are we going to place the bodies.” All these administrative questions and stuff, you know. You know, that was, that’s when it gets to be the bureaucracy of the system. That’s a realistic question, but it wasn’t my problem. That’s kind of callus, but I’m not really worried about placing bodies right now. I was more interested in finding them.

You know, there was a question, “What do we do about-? How do we decide whether he’s dead or not? “ It’s not your decision, you know. Let the doctor decide that, but there’s ‘Well, do we place them over there?’”

“Let the doctors –“ Anyway, different things like that. It started to get administrative.

One of the interesting things was in these worker bees, you could have the Colonel, Kaiser here, and you could have two Generals waiting for orders. You could have a Master Sergeant telling a Colonel what to do, you know, just because the roles that the people took. Obviously those roles have hierarchy and seniority by the role they’re filling and so, you know, it’s not like the General, “Oh, I’ll take that role. I’m senior to you.” It’s like, “OK, I can help. Tell me what to do,” you know, “I’m a worker here.”

It was really neat how all that fell together. It was, anyway, we walked outside. We went—FBI, they were probably as organized as everybody else, but the final thing was eventually was all the rescue teams that showed up and all the other ones and the security and the forensic scientists, basically sit around for awhile and I realized we’re not much of much help here. You know, fires, and look best thing we can do is just go home and get out of the way. And then we went home.

Some of the neat things as far as I’m concerned is that, you know, you make a question, you know, I guess someone told – Rumsfeld told the President that “We are ready.” Well, the answer

is we were ready, because you can't train for something like that and the responses that the people did. You know, you can't have a DC (Damage Control) locker at every ten foot and all the other stuff. But everybody made use of what was available. Everybody thought it out. Everybody came up with, I mean, whether it was a water spray or whether it was using a door for a stretcher. Whether it was making a human net, it doesn't really matter. Everybody was resourceful. Everybody fell into place, everybody was doing. It was like, even if you had trained and practiced to do what had happen and you only had the tools that were available, I don't think you would have done much better of a job. You might have got another two percent, maybe ten percent, but I would say the result was an eighty- percent result. You know, to get that extra twenty- percent to be, I just—it was good. People were ready. People were trained. I think it's a great reflection on the United State military across the board. It does—Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine, it doesn't matter, civilian workers. It's well done. The people all left the building. That to me was the most, I don't know, uplifting, supporting. I did notice that several people were, you know, ready to go out and kick ass and get revenge, but then again, most military people aren't passive.

I guess for me though, one of the things was I clicked into automatic, sometime in the event. Automatic feeling that you function and do the mission like when you're in combat or free falling, or all these different times your body naturally falls into automatic. But prior to that I always knew, kind of, when I was hopping into automatic. This one I just clicked in. One of the differences for me is I just left Jamaica and everybody thinks Jamaica was a paradise. Jamaica's the murder capital of the world right now and you can support that with statistics. It was a very, very high-risk environment. You could have got shot, you know, for anything, any day for any reason. It was that risky a place, and that's one of the reasons I wanted my family out of Jamaica. So coming back to the States, the idea was we were going to decompress. We were going to relax, because you are always in a state of Orange. You are always looking over your shoulder,

wondering if that guy was going to shoot you, or this was going to happen, or that was going to happen. It's not a relaxing paradise by any shape, at least in our case. So I was hoping that in fact I would be able to chill. So I get here. I'm in the States, you know. Things are going to be nice you know. It's not going to be a hard job, blah, blah, blah, blah. I mean a nine to five job, or even a six to six job is not a hard job, compared to other things sometimes. So you know, it's going to be OK, and then wham! You know, we get nailed.

Sometime again, I went into automatic. I think it was when I opened the door and saw the smoke, or maybe it was when I realized that I've got to open the door. Somewhere along there I was in automatic, and the only reason I realize that was is, you know, looking back on it the next day.

One of the things I did was when I woke up the next day, even though I was showered and cleaned up, I stunk, and it wasn't a BO smell. It was, well you can call it fear, endorphins whatever, but the chemical process that generated the day before, the adrenaline, blah, blah, blah, made an interesting smell the next day. So I think that was when I was able to assess that hey, I'd been functioning on automatic for that entire day. Is that enough?

Q: (45:27) Any lessons learned that you can think from—God forbid something like this happens again, but anything that you would recommend?

A. My lessons learned is I think people are going over the top to begin with.

Q. (45:41) They're what?

A. I think we're over reacting right now. I'm not saying things don't need to be done, but I'm not sure we have to go over the top. No, I think that's the key to this thing here, is that everybody fell into place. Everybody did what it was. If there was a lesson learned to be learned is we are doing the right thing. You know, I think that's the most—we're training our people. You know,

people understand the chain of command. People understand roles, requirements, you know. You don't really need a warning order and a five hundred brief or any of the other stuff. I mean, if everybody could be exposed to it and understand it you know, here's my mission. Here's what I have to do, you know.

Even the questions that people asked were those to allow them to do things better, you know. And they came up with different answers and I just don't really think there was all that many lessons learned, because we were doing the right thing at the right place, at the right time, you know.

You know, the logic of now we've got to deal with this at the airport. All that, you know. Katie, bar the door after, you know. You're shutting the barn door; it's a little bit late. It gets a little bit over the top, because, you know, in most practicality, they probably really won't be going back to the airport. It will be something else, you know. Why would they do something, you know. In all Special Operations ready, you know, you don't go in the same way you came out. You don't use the same route twice. I don't think they're foolish enough. I think those are very, very simple rules.

But, I can't think of—

Q. (47:23) What about equipment, any other equipment? Let me change this quickly. Any other equipment that you would place in buildings which would -?

A. I'll tell you the nice things to have would have been a complete uniform com system that was able to go back to essential node, that someone was able to control and operate it from. But, you know, there was multiple people with multiple different radios and there wasn't a central node. There wasn't—someplace, you know, OK, Donald Rumsfeld is the Secretary of Defense, you know. Do we go all the way to the President? I—who in the chain of command, but if there'd been somebody there central that I could have turned to as I walked out of the room after I saw

the female stumble out and said, “Hey, there are XYZ trapped in Navy Command Center. We need this, this, this and this.” If I was able to give that type of command or put that information out, that would have been nice. All right? How to was, that’s not a lesson learned, that’s a problem. How your going to resolve that problem is another story. I did, I saw an Admiral, I’m not going into his name or anything. I tried to give him the situation and try and tell him what was needed, but he didn’t have his accoutrements that was necessary to command, whether it was coms, whether it was somebody to run around. Whether it was the DC fire fighting team, I mean, in this case he was just another introduction. At least he had rank, but I couldn’t get him to do the commands and direct the things the way I needed then. So I kind of left him around and found the Lieutenant Colonel. I could do what I needed.

Obviously, it would have been nice if we’d had EBA, breathing apparatuses, fire fighting axes, ropes and all the other stuff, but how often—and the one thing I was hoping to find was a repair locker someplace in the Pentagon, because you know onboard a ship you’d find it all over the place. But there were no repair lockers or anything like that.

Again, the biggest thing was the central com. If we were onboard a ship, I would just dial DC Control, you know. Be somebody there. You make a report. They can send a team down, you know. It was just—but that, you know, that’s a ship, and that’s what you’re use to and that doesn’t exist in the Pentagon. And I’m not so sure that’s the solution. I’m not saying that at all. I’m just saying that those would have been nice to have were the fire fighting equipment. The coms would have been great. But again, you know, sometimes we over prepare for everything. But what we did have, we made the best of it. You know, trying to get to a telephone and make a call seemed virtually pointless. I don’t know when the water got turned off. I don’t know when they cut off the electricity. I know it was sparking for a while, because I told you about the panel and stuff. All that different stuff, so it’s really there, you know, I think, like I say, I’m repeating myself now. I think the lesson learned was we were prepared.

Q. (50:29) How about your family? What did your family think? When did they find out that you were OK?

A. Well, got to—I told you I was in automatic, and we really weren't able to call, because all the cell phones were all busy that day for obvious reasons. I finally got a hold of my wife, I think around twelve thirty or so. Remember I told you about this time, you know, I finally got a hold of my wife and told her I was OK. She had heard about it, seen it, and kept waiting for this phone call. I didn't know about this until the next day, so she was sitting on pins and needles and then I told her I didn't know when I'd be getting home.

She must have told my kids something, and –

Q. (51:10) How old are your children?

A. Five and seven; a seven year old boy and a five year old girl. Realize we just moved here. We moved from Jamaica where security was for them and their protection was tight. Now they go to and from school, you know, and everything else. And they were over talking to a neighbor I guess when I drove up and you know, they were very glad to see me. So Mom must have told them that, "Hey," you know, "Daddy was at the Pentagon." I'm not sure they understood. I will tell you that the questions that my children asked after that have been very, very interesting and very insightful and it's amazing what they pick up. If there was a lesson learned I wouldn't have allowed my children, because we were tied to the news that evening and watching it and our children watching it too, you know, and they saw thirty-two planes fly into thirty-two buildings, because you know, this thing repeated itself time and time again. After that we were able to realize that was the wrong thing to do.

My biggest mistake was my dad was in the hospital. He'd had his spleen removed the day before and that was the result of having quadruple by-pass surgery. Anyway, I didn't call him. I didn't

call my mom. I didn't think about it, and if I'd thought about it, if I wasn't in automatic it would have registered in my head, but I was sitting down to dinner, probably I think about five-thirty. Maybe it was five-thirty their time, six-thirty mine. And my mom was mad to say the least that I hadn't called, and very upset, because they had said—I just left Defense Attaché, which was part of the Central Intelligence Agency, so it was intelligence. And they had said someplace that the plane had hit the Navy Intelligence Center, and Dad knew that I was there. So, and when he didn't hear, he didn't hear, he didn't hear, he's thinking, you know. Dad was really, really worried. Mom was worried, but for my dad to worry, that's a key point. My dad doesn't worry about, you know, so he was really apprehensive and he was in the hospital. So I probably took more years off his life than he cares to have left, I guess. I don't know. So that would be a—yes, it has effected my family.

Q. (53:27) What were some of the questions your children asked?

A. You know, I can't remember them verbatim right now, but they were really, you know, asking about evil. Different things like that. Why they would do it. I don't think they realize the magnitude of six thousand dead. You know, why? They know the name of Osama Bin Laden now.

My daughter was five the other day, and asked me another question, but I can't remember it, but again it showed that she was aware of it, you know. My son, [REDACTED] very aware of it and discusses, you know. Why? Well, how do you get rid of Omasa? Why don't you do this? Why don't you do that? You know, different questions just like now.

Q. (54:20) It's amazing what they can ask at that age.

A. Yes, but you know, and the logic involved in it, you know. And you know, that's not right. That's evil. It's wrong and evil. I don't know, just really interesting questions.

Q. (54:37) You had mentioned today, you were talking about a civilian rescue you were involved with, or another rescue you were involved with before?

A. Five years earlier, Easter of '96, just before my daughter was born. I had already been sent to Hawaii to take over XO. My wife had stayed back, not only to have the baby, but to—in Virginia Beach—but to finish her Masters, sell our house, and about twenty million other feats.

But on Easter night we got a phone call from the SAR (Search and Rescue), Coast Guard or Tripler Hospital that there was a guy that was literally in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, who had got a fishhook in his foot two days previously, and was running a super high fever and was dying of—whether it was blood poisoning or what, but it had hooked into the fish and then the hook went into his foot. He pulled out the hook, but it must of left some sort of bacterium and stuff. His foot was—he had a real high fever. When we got to the scene, you know he had black narcrotic (phonetic), rotten and dead, I mean gangrene, and this is only two days, no, two and a half days by the time we got to him.

So it was like just about dusk and Easter. I was supposed to go over to my skipper's house for dinner. He gave me a phone call and said, "No, no, we're going into work." We went into work and what we did, was all that night we planned on how to parachute to this boat, this forty-seven foot ketch, that was In the Pacific Ocean, to get on board. There was other ways, but nothing could get to him for like three to five days at the earliest, and there was still another two to three day transit to an island that a plane could land on so that they could fly him out.

So what we ended up doing, is there were four of us and actually I normally don't do things like this, however I was the only one that really had all the tickets punched - free fall, communications, medical, boat repair, sailing, navigation, and then we had one guy and EMT, a Navy Corpsman, a SEAL, special operations tech who's the same thing as a paramedic, who was free fall qualified, Doc Rocca, Paul Rocca. Dexter Phillips who was another guy, a Lieutenant

type who had free fall experience and boat experience, and I can't think of the other guy's name at the present moment, but he owned a yacht. We thought he could sail, but, it was good enough. He was an extra hand, and so four of us ended up parachuting down.

Now there was a lot of other people that helped us do it. The Coast Guard flew the plane. We had a Zodiac rigged in case we missed it. We had other people standing by. All these different things. Well, we parachuted into this guy and then doc immediately went to work on him. Gave him an IV with antibiotics in it and stuff like that, and debride his wound and I helped debride, clean it up.

It took a bit to treat the guy, and then it took about a day to get the boat ready to sail. So almost twenty-four hours later maybe even a little bit longer, I had the boat ready to sail. We had to fix his outboard motor, a bunch of junky things. We got the boat underway and it's either three or four days we sailed his ketch to Christmas Island. We got to Christmas Island. Doctors from Tripler flew down on a Coast Guard C-130. We were met by camera crews and all sorts of things and then picked up and then from there they went and they treated, cleaned him up and then we all flew back in the C-130, back to Tripler. He didn't lose his leg. They did have to do grafts and a bunch of stuff. He did survive. He did have a lot of dead meat, rot and stuff like that.

Halfway along in the sailboat they wanted to give him another set of antibiotics and stuff. So they air-dropped this stuff in these really shitty seas and we had to sail back and forth trying to snag these containers before they sunk. You know, and there's me and the other guy's name I can't think of trying to hang over the side and hook these things. And again, if we'd fallen over the boat, even though we had lifelines or something or other, you know, it was an eleven hundred mile swim. Well, maybe it wasn't so far, because it was only three hundred miles to the island by that time. But it was a long way from no place. So that was the other rescue that I got involved in.

Q. (59:32) Did you get a reward for that?

A. I got the Navy Marine Corps for that one, and I understand they've placed me in for the Marine Corps for this one as well, so.

Q. (59:38) So that makes that very unique.

A. I would think so. I really haven't been able to scan the records, yet.

Q. (59:43) where do you go from here?

A. Right now I stay at the Pentagon.

Q. (59:51) How long is your tour here?

A. It will be two years. What will happen is my community did not look very favorably on me going to Defense Attaché even though I was given permission, the people on the peripheral decided that I was playing lone wolf, whatever. I did screen for command and I'll put my record up against anybody. Whatever the message that was sent out, basically they, you know, as far as the Navy Special Warfare community is concerned is I'm not good enough to command a SEAL team, even though there are people that will say and done things that I haven't done. Yet they're good enough. Anyway, that's my point of bitterness, so I may make Captain; I may not. I'm going to kind of hang for that, but not betting my future, I'm going to spend two years here. Hopefully to be able to network. One of the reasons I came to DC after discussion with the Admiral and stuff, was you know, I don't want to hang around a SEAL command or anything like that. That would irritate me to no end. If I can't operate it, also to look at these guys lead this command that I know I'm better at. So anyway I came up here to get myself positioned to retire. You know, hopefully I'll get a decent job, blah, blah, blah.

Q. (01:01:15) What would you like to do?

A. Simply stated, make enough money to pay for the house. Simply, I'd like to make the money I'm making now. As far as the—what I would find the most rewarding would be to get into some of these, we'll say geo-political issues that I really don't think people have a good empathy on the situation. I don't think they've taken the time to understand the situation, whether it's the Afghanistan issue or any of the other issues. There's a lot more to it and I think there's a lot of people walking around with blinders and they need to take a broader more understanding perspective on it. You know, if I was able to crack the code, how to get into that to do it, that's what I would like to do.

The best summary is that I think that we have a whole echelon in our entire government that is kind of locked into dogma, whether they're fighting Vietnam, or World War II, I really don't know. But you need a new set of thinkers and a new war fighter. I mean, in all fairness, I've been fighting terrorism since 1985, because that's the first time I went to SEAL Team 6. I've been overseas and I understand a lot of different—anyway they just, they need to freshen up their thoughts, and they're not doing it and I think that that's what I'm best at.

If I could figure out how to hop over this echelon and get into where I could actually, you know, make a difference, that's fine. I find a lot of people that are at the different positions are very, not political, not egotistical, but self-glorified. You know, I'm here at this position and therefore I must be ordained great, because this position requires somebody of greatness to do this job.

Therefore I am in this position, therefore I'm great, and it doesn't necessarily correlate A equals B, B equals C equals C. You know, I do think that in fact, you—anyway, that's what I'm hoping, and will keep my eyes out. You know, if I get work as a defense contractor for 05 – 20 (year) type pay, I can live with that, you know, and go from there and if that's, you know, I don't know sitting there doing this, that, it doesn't matter.

I'd like to be able to do more and contribute more, but just like I'd like to command a SEAL team, there's other powers that be that made decisions for me and I have the feeling that the way the system is right now, there's no way I can make the step from here to over there. And all the will in the world and all the work in the world doesn't make it. That's chance, that's fate, that's luck, but you know, it's not skill, because if it was skills then I would be the CO of a SEAL team.

Right, and this one's fate, luck, who you know, etc.

Q. (01:04:38) Who are some others we should talk with?

A. Lieutenant Sell, Jeff Stratton.

Q. (01:04:43) Lieutenant Correra? Is he a-?

A. Lieutenant Vic Correra, he's an Army type.

Q. (01:04:48) Army type, OK.

A. I don't know if you can get access to the Marines, but Colonel Kaiser would have a great look at it. I'm sure he's already written it down, but the Surgeon General, Major General Carlton. C-a-r-l-t-o-n because he was on the scene. Had a lot, he had some interesting insights. Mr. Henson, the guy that was trapped in the room. Talk to him, Jerry.

Q. (01:05:19) is he ready to talk?

A. Oh, yes, he was on TV, I heard, Friday.

Q. (01:05:24) Oh really. OK, I didn't see that.

A. He was on Dayline, that's what I understand. He's working right now –

Q. (01:05:27) He's a Vietnam Vet pilot, too, I hear.

A. Is that right.

Q. (01:05:29) He did missions - eighty-one missions in Vietnam.

A. He's a nice guy. Real nice guy. He's actually in the same office where Admiral Keating and Admiral Winter (phonetic) and all those people are right now.

Q. OK.

A. Over at the Pentagon.

Q. (01:05:46) So he is back at work?

A. Oh yes. You can't see any cuts or scars or bandages on him at all. Mark Pugh was a reservist who was in our office at the time and one of the interesting things, he went back the next Monday as a reservists digging through the rubble.

Q. (01:06:07) As a reservist?

A. Yes, as a reservist.

Q. Mark Pugh is a civilian?

A. Is a civilian, right.

Q. (01:06:10) How do you spell Pugh?

A. P-a-u-g-h-. No, P-u-g-h, sorry. I think he's a 602- 9042. You know, he belongs to me so –

Q. OK.

A. But he was in the room. You know, he got out went home. Located his wife, whatever. He was one of the, you know, he was talking to me feeling guilty that he didn't go back in. I said, "The best thing was getting the hell out of the way, because I had made a statement earlier, "Lead, follow, or get the hell out of the way." And you know, I think the people that did the best was when they got the hell out of the way instead of just standing around, because, you know, if you want to go to point A from point B, and you have to walk around somebody, it's a pain in the neck.

Q: (01:06:51) Right.

A. Mark Pugh would have a different insight. Again, he went back the next couple of days. I really don't know enough other people to throw up. Jeff I saw, saw and talked to him. I know who would be a good one, you need to talk to is Colonel, I mean Captain Bob Schultz.

Q. (01:07:16) He's a Navy Captain?

A. Yes, a Navy SEAL type. He's a EA (Executive Assistant) to ASD Seller (phonetic). The reason why you want to talk to him is because he was outside of the building when it happened and he was able to get back in and he was in the office with Donald Rumsfeld, because the ASC Cell of Counter-Terrorism, he's the advisor. He felt that's where he needed to be and he was in that office with Rumsfeld doing all that stuff and I would say he would be excellent. A definite, I think that would really give you, broaden the world out. I'm not sure what he can talk to you about or what he can't talk to you about, etc. but give him the opportunity. That would be great. I think he would be a key player.

Now, I don't know the names of it, but there was an article on me and another SEAL and this SEAL went up to the World Trade Center to help with the rescue.

Q. (01:08:10) In a SEAL capacity? I mean –

A. He just got in the car and drove up there. Told them, “I’m a SEAL. Let me help out.”

Q. (01:08:16) Is that right?

A. And, you know, he was doing there for a couple of days trying to help people.

Q. (01:08:19) Could you get me a copy of the article? Do you have a copy somewhere?

A. No, I didn’t keep a copy. I’m trying to think. I think it’s in, it’s the *Point of the Spear*. I’ll look around, but you know who probably does have it is Owen. Owen would have it.

Q. (01:08:33) OK, great.

A. Owen would have it. Another –

Q: Did you see Owen’s article that came out in the Academy-? I’ll get you a copy of that.

A. What, he wrote an article?

Q. (01:08:39) He did. Spoke very highly, extremely highly of you.

A. Sneaky little fellow.

Q. (01:08:48) And your leadership.

A. What was the, an aside for example, another SEAL Cliff Olsen, who’s a CO of Unit 2, or Unit 1 in Guam, his brother was one of the firefighters that was in the building when it collapsed.

Q. (01:09:07) New York?

A. Yes, and he hasn’t talked too much about it. I called him up. I was talking about some other things, but you know, that would be a different perspective, you know. His brother was on, off

duty, off shift and went in to help anyway, and he was one of the guys that got, you know, when the building came down.

Q: (01:09:29) Wow.

A. I'm not sure how broad you want to look at this. Trevis (phonetic) Smith, I did get up and talk to him about it, who is a SEAL friend of mine, was actually out on his boat when it happened.

Up in New York. He's from New York part of the world. So he saw it from, you know, another perspective. He's a SEAL type.

Can't think, I'm trying to think back here more, obviously there's people here in the annex that's there and watched the plane into this building, as well.

Q. (01:10:03) I got some of those. Well, keep your ears and eyes open if you come up with somebody that you think would be good.

A. Yes, again, Bob Schultz would be the best one. Trying to think. We had other SEALs there, but I can't tell you their story. Mark Thomas, and Marsh Mullins, but I don't know that they have a story to tell at all.

Again, Bob Schultz, what happened was, before like he next day or the day after that, Tim Misback (phonetic), who's a SEAL. Well, you know, I'll say he's a bit of a historian buff himself. He sent out an email that all of us had to write down narratives and send it to them for the archive purposes. Just for history's sake, and I'm not sure what's there, but if you talk to Bob Schultz about that, he might be able to you know, some other names might pop up.

Q. (01:10:52) OK Great. I'll do that.

A. So where's this article? What was it in?

Q. (01:10:56) It's in shipmate. I'll show it to you when we get done here.

A. OK.

Q. (01:11:01) One other question I have for you just from your perspective of the kind of work you're, your warfare specialties and the things you've been involved with. We went down to talk to the *Cole* Sailors and we learned about the SPRINT Team. They have this thing, are you familiar with the SPRINT Team.

A. Yes. I heard about the-

Q. (01.11.14) What's your perspective of a role that a team like that plays? They became—We talked to the *Cole* sailors five months post the event and it seems like that had a big impact on keeping everybody together.

A. I haven't been to SPRINT. I haven't talked to them. To me I, what I understood SPRINT to be was pretty much just a, somebody to go talk to if you're under stress, or if you, you know, as a result of this, you know. People need to talk about it. Well.

Q. (01:11:40) Or have seen something that—traumatic.

A. Well, it it's traumatic, and stuff, but in all fairness the number of times I've had to recount this story I think I've had my, my thing, time and time again.

Q. Right.

A. But I can't really give you any feeling on that what so ever.

Q. (01:12:0) But as far as the SEALs community is there anything that they do that's comparable to that or is it just –

A. No, I think –

Q. Suck it up and –

A. I don't think it's suck it up, I think it's that when you're in the job after twenty years, you, I mean, I've been in a plane crash, you know. A plane crash one time.

Q. (01:12:20) You were in it.

A. No, I've been in that too but no this is a '53 (CH-53), was doing demonstrations, came in. It hit the ground, it's stinger head and it auto rotated and we had a bunch of Rangers standing in the back and they got flung across the cement and the plane came down landed, started sending rotor blades all over the sky. That's another story in itself. But then you ran out trying to help those bodies, you know. I remember rolling this one guy over. He rolled, I could see it, and when I rolled him over and there's just this big purp-well it was bright pink and it turned purple before my eyes where his face used to be, you know. We'll say different traumatic events like that, being in the Gulf war and in the combat and stuff, I think you get adapted to that, being in plane crashes, and you yourself being really close. Like I said I was in a helicopter one time and flew too close to a rig and knocked off an UH-50 and it has five blades on it. Chopped off a big chunk of one and a little chunk of another and a smaller chunk of the other. But, you know, we're flying over water, and we can go in at any minute you know, and I'm figuring oh shit, one of those deals.

So parachuting and this doesn't work so you try this that and the other thing, you know, and you're diving and this doesn't work and you try that. I've been in an SDV, where it hit the bottom and it warped the frame, but we couldn't open it anywhere. We couldn't get out of the SVD, we were in the middle of the water. We were more worried about a barge running over and cutting us in half, and we're sitting there like, you know. And we're on these really crummy MK-15s which are very tricky breathing apparatuses. You know, this is going to suck, you know, so I don't know that it's ingrill—we don't have a program for it, but I think just after the duration and stuff, I mean even going through hell week, we have certain things like rock porridge and stuff that we had, called it a pucker factor and you know by the time you're done

that pucker factor on both sides, whether they're playing games with you or you're actually scared. I think you get adapted to it. I'm not sure there's a condition to, but after a long enough duration, you know.

In all, actually being a Boy Scout before, I enjoyed different things, and risk and stuff like that and you just, you know. I don't know.

Q. (01:14:34) Were you a Boy Scout?

A. Oh yeah.

Q. (01:14:41) How far did you go?

A. Well, I lived in Australia. I was a—I had my Scout corps, came back to the States, but I was able to get my Eagle Scout equivalent, because I was out of the system, but every time I went, I was, you know, I pretty maxed out where I went, which was good. But, you know, rescues different things like that. I just, I don't know, I just, but I would say if you're looking at what shaped me, my traveling shaped me, because it allowed me to look at different life styles and different, and the Japanese idea of face and respect and courtesy, I think I picked up very, very early in my travels.

Playing rugby was the thing that taught me to think on my feet all the time and I think that's one of my biggest assets. My perception of people being one. My ability to think on my feet, which was playing rugby and then, and also stick it out, and then, you know, we'll say even not quitting. Certain times you don't have a choice, you know, and that may have been some of the Scouting I did, or all of it combined together, you know. And then my parents. You know, I have great parents, good stock.

Q. (01:15:56) Where are they? Where do they live?

A. Decatur, Illinois.

Q. (01:15:59) Have you had a chance to sit down and talk to them about this, or will you?

A. Bits and pieces. Mom and Dad are supposed to be out sometime next week. Like I said, I just moved here. My household goods haven't arrived yet.

Q. (01:16:08) Wow.

A. We're hoping they'll come sometime next week. That's kind of one of the side stories we're working on right now. And then they're going to try and time it to come out at the same time as my household goods, you know, to help out. It's like I really don't want my dad working on it. He just had quadruple by-pass surgery, you know. But anyway, that's Mom and Dad, nobody –

Q. (01:16:25) Do you have brothers and sisters?

A. I have two brothers, an older and a younger brother. My brother [REDACTED] lives in Ashtabula, Ohio, the Cleveland area, and my brother lives in, my brother [REDACTED] lives in Dayton now. We move all the time. We kind of all ended up in Dayton. We all graduated from Dayton, or Centerville High School.

Q. (01:16:46) In Dayton?

A. Yes.

Q. Ohio?

A. Right, but –

Q. (01:16:48) What year would that have been?

A. ■■■ would be '74. I'd be '75 and ■■■ would be '77.

Q. (01:16:53) Do you remember a guy named Jimmy Merrill?

A. Merrill rings a bell.

Q. (01:16:57) He was All-State quarter back. Went to the Academy with me.

A. From Centerville?

Q. (01:17:01) I don't know if it was Centerville, or, it was in Dayton.

A. Probably Kettering.

Q. (01:17:03) Kettering, it was Kettering.

A. That name rings a bell. But, the, you know, what happened was my parents had moved from Dayton, but ■■■ stayed in Dayton. ■■■ went to Iowa, because that's where we were when we came back to the State. We went out of the State. Moved to a place, Avon Lake which is on the east side of Cleveland and then to someplace in Illinois. Springfield, I think, and then to Rome, Georgia. Then to Chesapeake, Virginia. Now back to Ashtabula. So he's kind of made a big round, and ■■■ been in Dayton all the time.

Q. (01:17:37) Have you talked to them about any of this at all?

A. To some degree. I, you know, it's not really something I sit around and talk about. You know, its, I—There is, in all honesty, I read in the paper yesterday from Morgan Stanley, he was a British guy. Died in the Trade Center, he was a security officer. It was like three and a half pages about this guy. It was really kind of an interesting article. There is a story to tell, a lot of it, but it's not me. I don't feel like I'm the one for the commentaries.

I had a friend that tried to write a story about me when I was only in college. So, I've done a lot since then.

Q. (01:18:27) Anything that you want to add for the record?

A. No, I don't. Is there anything else I should add for the record?

Q. (01:18:33) No.

A. There's no attribution in this.

CAPT McDaniel: No, it's been great. Thanks Craig appreciate it.

Transcription by:
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