

**Naval Historical Center
Oral Interview Summary Form**

Interviewers:

Capt Michael McDaniel

Interviewer's Organization:

Naval Historical Center

Interviewee:

LCDR Dale C. Rielage, USN

Current Address:



Date of Interview:

29 Mar 02

Place of Interview:

Pentagon

Number of Cassettes:

One

Security Classification:

Unclassified

Name of Project: Pentagon Terrorist Attack Incident

Subject Terms/Key Words: Navy Command Center; CNO IP; Medical Care; Pentagon; Terrorist Attack; 11 September 2001; triage; evacuation; Defense Protective Service

Abstract of Interview:

Interviewee Information:

LCDR Rielage was born in [REDACTED], NE in 1970. His father was in the Air Force. From 1973 on he was raised in Cincinnati, OH. His father was an Air Force Intelligence Officer during the Vietnam era. His maternal grandfather was an Aviation Radioman and Chief Warrant Officer in the Navy during World War II on observation aircraft and battleships. This was the primary reason LCDR Rielage joined the Navy. The primary reason he's an intelligence officer is because of his father. He is the fourth generation in his family to be associated with the fire service in one way or another. His great grandfather was a fire insurance underwriter in the day that underwriters were required to go to every fire for insured property. His grandfather did similar work. His great grandfather helped found the Cincinnati Salvage Corps, which was a fire protection agency. His father worked in insurance, was also a volunteer fire fighter and assistant chief in Harding Township, OH. He is now the state Fire Marshall in Ohio. His uncle ran the Fire Alarm Bureau in Cincinnati for many years. Another uncle is a full time firefighter in Orlando, OH. His youngest brother just joined a volunteer fire department in Indiana as a college student. LCDR Rielage joined his first fire department officially at his first sea duty station in Mayport, FL. He was assigned to *USS Stark* arriving in 1992. When he transferred to Intelligence in 1995 and went to Intelligence Officer Basic Course in Virginia Beach where he joined their fire department. Since they train their volunteers through the professional academy he was able to do the whole 240-hour Firefighter 2 course, the emergency medical technician and all the training associated with that. Last year he transferred to the Pentagon.

He attended the University of Ohio on an NROTC scholarship graduating in 1991 with a history and political science major. He went to Surface Warfare School in Newport, RI. His first duty station was the *USS Stark* as Communications Officer, Assistant Navigator and Damage Control Assistant. He transferred to Intelligence and attended the Intelligence Officer Basic Course in Dam Neck, Va. He then went to the Atlantic Intelligence Command. He was a Maritime Watch Officer, Maritime Watch Operations Officer, Joint Observer Training and then the Operations Officer for the Director of Intelligence. He then went to SECONDFLT Intel Staff for two years. In summer 2001 he arrived at the Pentagon as the Deputy Executive Assistant to the Director of Naval Intelligence.

Topics Discussed:

On 11 Sep his office had just moved from 5C572 to their new spaces in wedge 1 around 3E362. They had just gotten installed in the office. In that office were ADM Richard Porterfield (DNI), in the outer area was Capt Paula Moore (Executive Assistant), LCDR Rielage, Lt Kevin Nelson (Flag Aide), Miss Lynn Wright (Special Assistant to Deputy Director of Naval Intelligence). Then there was Miss Long's office (the Deputy DNI), and an area beyond there that was N2C (Cryptology) with three people. The N2 Secretariat and conference rooms were also there. They also had the Senior Analyst Office and his people. LCDR Young, the JAG, was in this office too. She kept hard copy archive papers, large parts of which were lost.

LCDR Rielage arrived at work about 0530 on 11 Sep. Capt Moore was already there. The Admiral would have been there and Miss Long typically came in between 0530 and 0600. In the old office the CNO IP briefers would come to the office at 0630 to provide the Admiral with a desk side brief. This would include a LT breifer, civilian analyst and either CDR Shanower or LCDR Tolbert. The big theme that morning was that Admiral Porterfield was going to Capitol Hill for Congressional testimony.

The morning meeting for the division heads was scheduled for 0830 in the CNO IP spaces. This was a division head meeting that was held in the CNO IP spaces, but not usually attended by CNO IP personnel. Because the Admiral was involved in the testimony Miss Long was taking this meeting while the DNI stayed in his office to focus on his final testimony. Miss Long, Miss Wright and LCDR Rielage went to the IP spaces for the meeting. At some point the Vice Chief had a question in one of that morning's earlier briefings, and that question had come back to IP to put together an answer. CDR Shanower had passed LCDR Rielage a folder as he went into the division head meeting. LCDR Rielage, not realizing it was the answer to the VCNO's question, stayed for the meeting. During the meeting Capt Moore called down and wanted to know where the folder was. CDR Shanower went into the meeting and whispered into Miss Long's ear. Later LCDR Rielage realized that CDR Shanower was probably telling Miss Long about the World Trade Center. A few minutes later LCDR Tolbert came in and pulled LCDR Rielage out of the meeting telling him Capt Moore wanted the folder. LCDR Tolbert also mentioned that a plane had hit the World Trade Center.

In the office on the fourth deck they had heard about the World Trade Center. Since it was a new office they didn't have cable installed. LCDR Rielage tried to pull up CNN's website a few times. One of the secretary's was concurrently on the phone with her husband and passed on to

them that there now was a second plane involved at the World Trade Center. The Admiral came out of his office to go to his Congressional testimony and Capt Moore and LCDR Rielage mentioned the second airplane at the World Trade Center. The Admiral wondered aloud if they would hit “here” next, then left for his testimony.

LCDR Rielage realized he had a fitness report on his desk that needed to go to Capt Jack Dorsett who was in the division head meeting in the CNO IP spaces. He decided that was a good excuse to go back to the meeting and went back to the first deck. He walked into the meeting around 0930, and gave the fitness report to Capt Dorsett. LCDR Rielage walked back to the area where the CNO IP OIC’s office was located. The IP folks were gathered in CDR Shanower’s office. LCDR Rielage walked over to CDR Shanower’s office, but having no reason to be there decided not to interrupt. He walked over and watched the television coverage of the World Trade Center and thought about it not being his job to worry about current intel. He realized Miss Long and Miss Wright had left and that he needed to be with them and quickly went back up to the fourth deck.

LCDR Rielage was making a phone call to Capt Dorsett to arrange some changes in a morning meeting when the plane hit the Pentagon. He was by the window overlooking South Parking with his back towards the direction of impact. It was not very loud. It was a percussive air impact. Capt Dorsett immediately said “They hit us, gotta go” and hung up the phone. LCDR Rielage went to the window. Capt Moore, Miss Long and Miss Murvis were in the office. Miss Murvis went to the hallway and told them it was full of smoke. Capt Moore told them to get out. LCDR Rielage threw the classified pouch on his desk into the safe and locked it. He went out the door with Miss Long and Capt Moore. They went down the whole length of third corridor. The smoke at first was a light haze, in third corridor the smoke got heavier. They went down the escalators. Miss Long and Capt Moore wanted to go to the Command Center. As they went down the fourth corridor the fire doors were closing and the smoke was pushing down the hallway so they went out towards the courtyard instead. They didn’t know what had happened or that a plane had hit the building. They thought it was a car bomb.

In the courtyard LCDR Rielage saw a medical person in a white coat from the clinic. He stopped to talk to this person, who was talking on a radio reporting the multiple casualties. All they could see was the plume of the smoke from the other side of the building. LCDR Rielage told her he was an EMT and could help. She asked if he remembered triage. She pointed to the grass and told him where to put urgent, delayed and routine. LT Olin Sell, a SEAL officer, came up and asked what he needed. LCDR Rielage had him watch people with light smoke inhalation.

There was a serious leg injury and some burn cases. As the injured came out enough folks had arrived from the clinic to tend to them immediately. An Air Force LTGEN asked him if he was a doctor. This LTGEN told the Army Captain with the radio he was a trauma surgeon and what supplies he needed from the clinic. He told her to have them call Andrews where there was a prepositioned hospital. The LTGEN then went through and looked at all the injured. LCDR Rielage considered himself relieved.

At that time an OS2 went up to the Army Captain and asked if anyone had gone back in. She told him no medical personnel were going in the building. He told her people were in the building.

She told him he wasn't hers, to do whatever he wanted. In fire training they drill into you not to go in alone and without gear. LCDR Rielage grabbed a Basic Life Support (BLS) bag and a backboard and followed the OS2. Someone grabbed the back of the board with him and they went back into the first deck, first corridor. There was heavy smoke. They were between B and C ring and LCDR Rielage had lost the OS2. The road was filled with water up to the curb. There was debris in the breezeway and the water. On the left was the C ring area. There were two openings on the first deck that had been blown in the building. The first one had black, heavy, oily smoke coming out of it. Further down there was another hole in the building with flames coming out. There was a door almost directly opposite the first opening as if it had been blown out of its frame. Around this area there were about 2 dozen people, almost all military, and a couple of DPS people. You could see furniture around the hole. People had found construction helmets. An Army officer was dragging a pressure washer towards the opening that had flashed over. People were peeling off parts of their uniform and rolling in the water so they could get closer to the fire.

LCDR Rielage opened the BLS kit to check out what he had and put the bag valve mask together. At some point a DPS officer came into the breezeway and told people to get out. There had been stuff falling from the C ringside. Some of the windows started to break out and glass was falling. The first three Arlington Fire Department guys showed up. LCDR Rielage decided it was a good time to leave and went out down fourth corridor and into the courtyard.

In the courtyard everyone was gone. There was an Arlington County Battalion Chief trying to run interior command from his car. LCDR Rielage ran into IS2 Lhuillier and Lt Megan Humbert who were coming out of the building. He asked about IP and Lt Humbert told him there were still people in IP. LCDR Rielage went up to the Battalion Chief and started to tell him he knew where some people were. He gave the driver a description of where to find IP.

Some firefighters started to come out of the building. Some DPS officers in the courtyard started yelling about another plane coming. The firefighters started bailing out of the building. They dropped their packs and sat down in the grass behind the ground zero shack. LCDR Rielage and some others started giving bottled water to the firefighters. At some point an F-16 came over. Everybody jumped. At some point the firefighters went back in the building. The courtyard was empty with a lot of medical equipment that had been left. An Army combat medic named Rose and LCDR Rielage went around and collected up the equipment and classified it. At some point some people came into the courtyard with Gen Carlton. Gen Carlton organized people into different groups such as urgent care, etc. He allocated the available equipment to the different groups. Another group of people gathered water and handed it out. People went to different machines and took hydration fluids (juice, water), but nothing else.

No more injured were coming into the courtyard so the General decided half the people should go. They went out a vehicle exit near first corridor into the South Parking area. They brought some of the supplies with them on a rolling stretcher. The whole medical staging area in South Parking was in the roadway opposite the helo pad. He saw the building for the first time. There was a row of stretchers a couple hundred feet long laid out on the grass.

The Urban Search and Rescue Team (USAR) showed up on a bus. He felt great the professionals were there, but also felt that it was a loss.

In the field area there were chunks of airplane. There were parts of the plane in the middle of where they were trying to stage medical stuff. At some point the FBI started to post people at the various pieces. That got to be too much and instead they moved everyone back towards the guardrail.

At some point they told people the Old Guard was coming to take over and then everyone could go home. Around 1500 the Old Guard showed up and gathered the ad hoc mass of people together for turnover. They thanked the volunteers and a military chaplain offered a prayer, then they were dismissed.

LCDR Rielage found out the N2 had reconstituted at the Navy Annex with the Marine Corps. He went to the Annex and found the N2 people. This is where he heard about the World Trade Center collapsing, and that it was not a rumor. The focus at the Navy Annex was to account for the people. They had a 3x5 white board and a diagram of the IP rooms. They had written in the names of the people where they had last been seen in IP. The people's names were all in the same room LCDR Rielage had last seen them. They were in the Annex for the next two months and nobody ever erased that board.

By 1600 that day they had started to set up an Intel Watch at the Annex. Capt Dorsett, N20, was there and set up a watch bill. They had a list of the missing that had been whittled down to about 10. About 2200 that night they tracked down one of these people alive. Lynn Wright became the Casualty Liaison Officer figuring out who was the next of kin of each of the missing. They didn't have access to page 2's. When they got down to a short list they found people who knew each of the missing to go to the family's house. Every family had a CACO, a Command Liaison and other people trying to support them. ADM Porterfield directed this. The Sunday after 11 Sep ADM Porterfield and Miss Long went to every family of the N2 missing to spend time with the families.

Prior to 11 Sep the DNI focused on current intel in the morning in preparation for the CNO brief, but after that he was focused on other things. From 11 Sep on everything is driven by current intel. The Marines took their HUMINT people and gave their spaces to DNI as long as they needed it.

On the evening of 11 Sep he went home to Bolling, AFB. He sat at the one open gate for an hour trying to get on the base to go home. He had his personal fire fighting gear at home. He loaded it into a bag and put it in his car. LCDR Rielage had run into a military guy that day who was a volunteer firefighter and who had borrowed a set of turnout gear to help the firefighters at the Pentagon that day. LCDR Rielage has kept his gear in his car ever since.

At 0130 that morning the entire alert system on Bolling AFB went off. Eventually someone came over the PA system and told them it was a mistake.

Abstracted by:

CDR Carol O'Hagan
25 APR 02

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LCDR Rielage was born in [REDACTED], NE in 1970. His father was in the Air Force. From 1973 on he was raised in Cincinnati, OH. His father was an Air Force Intelligence Officer during the Vietnam era. His maternal grandfather was an Aviation Radioman and Chief Warrant Officer in the Navy during World War II on observation aircraft and battleships. This was the primary reason LCDR Rielage joined the Navy. The primary reason he's an intelligence officer is because of his father. He is the fourth generation in his family to be associated with the fire service in one way or another. His great grandfather was a fire insurance underwriter in the day that underwriters were required to go to every fire for insured property. His grandfather did similar work. His great grandfather helped found the Cincinnati Salvage Corps, which was a fire protection agency. His father worked in insurance, was also a volunteer fire fighter and assistant chief in Harding Township, OH. He is now the state Fire Marshall in Ohio. His uncle ran the Fire Alarm Bureau in Cincinnati for many years. Another uncle is a full time firefighter in Orlando, OH. His youngest brother just joined a volunteer fire department in Indiana as a college student. LCDR Rielage joined his first fire department officially at his first sea duty station in Mayport, FL. He was assigned to *USS Stark* arriving in 1992. When he transferred to Intelligence in 1995 and went to Intelligence Officer Basic Course in Virginia Beach where he joined their fire department. Since they train their volunteers through the professional academy he was able to do the whole 240-hour Firefighter 2 course, the emergency medical technician and all the training associated with that. Last year he transferred to the Pentagon.

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Topics Discussed:

Q. (07:26) Where was your office on 11 September?

A. Well, interesting question because we had actually just moved. When I took the job, reported in 17th of July we were up in what had been the DNI's office since I think like the late '40s. It was 5th deck, C ring, I believe. 572 was the Admiral's office, and as I said we'd been installed there forever and I think the first week of September we actually moved down to new spaces that were in the wedge 1 area, and that was the the 3rd deck, E ring. I want to say 362 area. New offices, had a view of South Parking, outside of the E ring. It was nice. We'd gone through all the difficulty of moving, sorting through everything we had been there, and literally had just gotten installed in those offices. We hadn't even hung anything on the walls yet. We were still figuring out where all the furniture went on the eleventh.

Q. (08:39) Who all was in that office? Or just kind of give me kind of a layout and then a little bit about the infrastructure.

A. Sure. The offices consisted of ADMIRAL RICHARD PORTERFIELD, DNI's office, an outer area - there was only one entrance or exit from that office - an outer area that was CAPTAIN PAULA MORE (phonetic), who was the Executive Assistant at the time. Myself, LT KEVIN NELSON who was the flag aide, and then MISS LYNN WRIGHT, who was the Special

Assistant to the Deputy Director of Naval Intelligence. She's a civilian position, but we've been talking about adding for a while, because MISS LONG, LATISHA LONG, she goes by TISH is the Deputy Director of Naval Intelligence, honestly much more engaged I think than a lot of her predecessors and needed a lot of support. So we talked about bringing in a civilian to help with that and she'd been selected and her joining our staff was kind of contingent on our moving. So she's literally just come into the staff the week prior to the 11th. Was still setting herself up, but we were all in one space.

Then you had MISS LONG's office. You had an area beyond it there that was N2 Charlie, Cryptology, which was CAPT HARDIWAY and PETTY OFFICE BASENIGHT and sometimes when he was not in Fort Mead, N2 Charlie actually Naval Security Group which at the time was still I believe ADMIRAL WHITE. Though I'm not entirely certain.

That was on the outside of the E ring. You went into the inner side of the E ring, you had the N2 Secretariat and then down the ways you had a conference room and a couple of other office, N2L Navy Foreign Liaison, N2K Navy Interagency Coordination and I believe that was all the offices we kept.

Our JAG, LCDR KIMBERLY YOUNG, - oh there was one other office N2I, which is the analysis, Senior Analyst was also on the other side of the passageway, MR. EARL SHECK (phonetic) and his people, and in that office with him was LCDR YOUNG, our JAG and that became significant because she probably more than anybody else in the office kept hard copy archive papers, large parts of which were lost in, of course, the attack. Records of some of the things that N2 had gotten involved in going back ten, twenty years, primarily counterintelligence investigations, prosecution of Jonathan Pollard, prosecution of Whitworth, prosecution of John Walker, I mean going back years, so.

Q. (11:38) Was that a sole source, will that be – ?

A. In some cases, yes, unfortunately, that was one of the things that got pointed out in this. I mean because those things were fairly sensitive and were legal documents, and they're in a lot of cases, sole source.

Q. (11:51) Wow.

A. But that was the physical layout on the 11th. The morning of the attack –

Q. (12:05) Can you just kind of walk through that day for me.

A. And I will if you forgive me occasionally be referring to this sheet of notes. Actually several days after the attack I was bothered and I'll probably mention this again. There comes a point in the course of the day when I remember vignettes. I remember scenes of what happened, but I still have difficulty putting them in chronological order. If you will, I mean I have assumed or can reconstruct some of the order they came in and that was why I started to write these notes down.

Q. (12:41) When did you start that?

A. I believe this was in my kitchen at home like late Thursday evening. I guess it would have been the 13th. I don't know why, but I got home probably about 2200 that evening and was, was bothered by not being able to piece that together. So I just started writing down every scene I could remember, and it's pretty coherent up to a certain point. I'll mention when that happens.

Q. (13:11) Are you a journaler by nature, or was this –

A. I'm a writer by nature. I mean I've written history and that for some magazines and so forth, but Lord willing I have a book coming out this fall.

Q. (13:26) Really? We'll talk about that later, too.

A. But that's another issue. But the eleventh started, probably hear this from everybody, like any other day. Bureaucratic routine. I came in about 5:30 that morning. As would be typical, CAPT MOORE was already in the office. She would typically arrive by the first subway train that would stop in the Pentagon from where she came. She just lived over in Crystal Gateway. So it was a short hop. She'd already be there. The Admiral typically would already be there. I don't remember exactly when MISS LONG got there that day, but she typically comes in between 5:30 and 6:00. So, and we were still feeling our way through the routine because in our old office the CNO Intelligence Plot briefers would always come up to the office at 6:30 and would provide a desk side brief for the Admiral. And it would always be a briefer, usually a Lieutenant, usually one of the civilian analysts from down there, and either LCDR TOLBERT or CDR SHANOWER would come with them. Usually CDR SHANOWER if he was in, and the rest of the front office would come in and they'd run the DNI through the day's events. At that point, if the DNI was going to talk to the CNO that morning, he'd take some of the slides. He'd you know, gauge how much of the current Intel he was going to get hands-on with by who he had to talk to later that morning.

That would have happened that morning. I just don't remember the content of the brief, but one of the things that happened with our relocation was before we moved to the Wedge 1 spaces, the Navy Command Center and with them the CNO Intelligence Plot moved from this area, the old Navy Command Center to the new Command Center down on the first deck. What was that? I

think officially it was like 1st deck D ring 450-something. They moved down into those spaces several weeks before we moved into wedge 1. So we were still working at the logistics of being further away from IP, and but they would have, would have come up to do the 6:30 brief.

The big theme that morning though was that ADMIRAL PORTERFIELD was going over to Capital Hill for Congressional testimony that morning and the hearing was supposed to be there at 9:30 or 10:00. I believe it was HPSI hearing. It had been rescheduled several times.

Q. (16:17) HPSI is ?

A. House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and I believe that's who the testimony was before. It had been rescheduled several times and preparing the Admiral to testify before a committee especially one that important is always a very involved event. Lots of pre-briefing. Lots of question/answer panels. Lots of making sure he's comfortable with the material. What we're saying is consistent with what everybody else is saying in terms of you know, the DOD policy and that. So it was really, that was what we were focused on.

And the morning meeting for the division heads was to occur at 8:30 and that meeting was actually held down in the CNO IP spaces. They had a conference room VTC area; Video Teleconference area that actually opened onto the main watch floor where the IP watch officer sat by means of a curtain that we had started using just the week before for division head meetings. And because the Admiral was involved in the testimony MISS LONG the Deputy was going to take the meeting, senior person –

Q. (17:39) But normally DNI would be there?

A. Normally the DNI would be there, but DNI stayed up in his office to focus on final testimony preps and MISS LONG, MISS WRIGHT and myself went down to the meeting in the IP spaces. I was sitting close to the door like a good aide, and one of the things that had happened out of the 6:30 brief was the Vice, was it 6:30, no there would have been a later, 7:30 I think brief to CNO, VCNO. At some point the Vice-Chief had a question about something that was in the Intelligence brief. I don't remember exactly what, but the question came back to IP back to VA, and IP was of course supposed to put together an answer and we would pass that along. So I was sitting down in the meeting, in the Division head meeting down in the IP spaces. CAPTAIN MOORE had asked me to remind them about the answer they owed and as I walked into the meeting LCDR TOLBERT had given me a folder. What I didn't realize was that CAPT MOORE had called down in the intervening time and said, "I need the answer brought back up here." He handed me the folder; I went in the meeting and sat down. She called back down and said, "Where's the answer?" So LCDR TOLBERT knocked on the door, motioned for me and pulled me out of the meeting, and said, "Hey, we need the folder up there." Kind of look at my notes here, I'm sorry. I'm looking at my notes and see this is the little bit of tricks of memory. It was CDR SHANOWER that gave me the folder when I went into the meeting, and –

Q. (19:45) Was he not in the meeting or was he?

A. Typically IP folks didn't sit in in the meeting. They were being - Intel brief is the first part of it, but it was for the division heads at N2. We're just using their spaces.

CDR SHANOWER gave me the folder. I went in. CDR SHANOWER interrupted and whispered in MISS LONG's ear. I didn't hear what was said, and there was really nothing said to the group, but I realized later that was CDR SHANOWER talking about the first plane in New York.

Q. (20:19) Do you remember her reaction, or -?

A. She was very calm. That is, that is one thing I have to say for both MISS LONG and the Admiral, is they through all the events that occurred in this, and as astonishing as they were and kept a complete game face. Very matter of fact look that which I'd like to think I would do in the same case, but -. Very focused, we pressed on, and at that point, see the report was fragmentary. How big, whatever, anyway, and she knew that IP was going to find out what they could and if it was more they'd interrupt her again.

After CDR SHANOWER went out, a couple of minutes later LCDR TOLBERT came in, pulled me out said, "Hey, CAPT MOORE needs the folder."

I went running back up, but mentioned while I came out that plane hitting the World Trade Center. So I went back up to our office on the fourth deck.

Q. (21:23) Do you remember what TOLBERT said to you?

A. No, I don't remember exactly. I mean it was still one plane. Don't know how big, and I'm sure they had CNN on at that point, and one of the things that I had to realize taking this job and I thought about it a couple of times that morning was "I'm not a CURN Intel Officer anymore." I loved doing CURN Intel, but I'm an administration person at this point, so if I try to play CURN Intel, it just muddies things up. So I very consciously try to stay away from that.

I went back up to the office and of course everyone up there had heard about the airplane. Our new office on the 4th deck was so new that they didn't have the cable installed so we're the only flag office I think in the entire world that doesn't have CNN. So I sat down there at my desk and tried to pull up CNN's web site a couple times, which was almost a lost cause. And I was still up at my desk trying to find out something more from CNN or any of the other news web sites, when it was actually our secretary, MISS DARLENE MURVIS who had been on the phone with her husband who said that there was a second plane, which pretty much obviously removed the thought of intentional, not intentional.

The Admiral walked out of his office to go to his Congressional testimony, service dress blues, just a couple moments after that, after MISS MURVIS said, "Hey, there's a second airplane." And CAPT MOORE and I were both still seated at our desks and one of us said to him, "Sir," you know, "second airplane," and so forth, and the Admiral kind of looked at us, cocked his head and said, "Wonder if they'll hit here next?" It was an off the cuff and CAPT MOORE and I both kind of looked at each other and the Admiral went off to his testimony.

After I was just sitting there and being a little frustrated that I couldn't get any news. No CNN, nothing CNN, CURN Intel-ish driving at me, I realized I still had on my desk a fitness report that needed to go to CAPT JACK DORSET, who's N20 who is down in the Division head meeting, and I needed to get it to him that morning. It provided me a good excuse to get back down to the division head meeting, which I usually sit in anyway, and oh by the way, walk through and see what was going on. So I excused myself. Went back down to the 1st deck with this fitness report. I walked in right about 9:30 as the meeting was breaking up. Folks were already standing up in the space and that. Gave the fitness report there to CAPT DORSET and everyone was filing out and back to the Command Center and MISS LONG and MISS WRIGHT were talking to

someone else down there. I walked back not into the watch space, but there's another space where the briefers prepared the briefings in the morning, and in the back was the OIC's office. And the IP folks were gathered back in CDR SHANOWER's office.

It was him, CDR TOLBERT, ANGIE HOUTZ, BRADY HOWELL, who I remember specifically seeing and I believe both LT PANIK and LT PONTELL. I'm not honestly sure if they were in there, because they were in a fairly small office gathered around. CDR SHANOWER was already talking about "This is what I need to know for the next briefing," for the next whatever, and I walked up to the door and he kind of cocked his head. When the flag aide walks in you see if you've got some bad news. He cocked his head to kind of quizzing –

Q. (25:53) This was SHANOWER.

A. Quizzingly, CDR SHANOWER and I kind of made a motion, "I've not got anything to interrupt for," and he kind of pointed and said, "Want to come in, listen," Which from a CURN Intel's point I wanted to be down in CURN Intel. That's what I wanted to do. Not my job. So I walked a little away from there. They had the TV and I stood there for a few minutes and watched CNN, the two Towers and I remember very consciously thinking, "It's not my job." Realized about that point that MISS LONG and MISS WRIGHT were scooting back up to the office, and that's where I needed to be so I went out of IP and back up to the 4th deck. And I know I walked at least part of the way, I caught up with them and was talking to them as they went out and all the O-6 and division heads had left IP at that point.

MISS LONG was thinking about her schedule for the rest of the day and I keep the schedule, sort of. There was something in the afternoon. I don't remember what, but she thought we'll need some more time to prepare for this. There were some folks I believe from ARMYDEFSENT,

who were coming in to visit with her at ten and she said, "Well, I need some prep time. Can you have CAPT DORSET take this ten o'clock meeting for me? That will give me time to prepare." So we go back into the office and I've got a scramble to move the ten o'clock meeting, so I go over to the phone at my desk and call CAPT DORESTT who has just been in the division head meeting and has now gone back to his office which is back by our old spaces in the 5th deck over, in fact it's 5Delta 660. He had the office we're in right now.

I call up there, get CAPT DORSET on the phone and explain to him, we need you to, he was going to sit in the 1000 anyway, but "you're going to be the senior person taking it, if you can do that." And somewhere in the middle of that conversation, is where the plane hit.

I was by the window looking over South Parking with my back toward direction of impact and I remember, I remember it wasn't very loud.

Q. (28:31) It was not.

A. It was not. I remember it was a lot like, it felt, have you ever been out on the bridge when you're doing naval gunnery? It was kind of that air impact, kind of percussive. That's what it felt like. Not very loud, and CAPT DORSET who I talked to later, and he'd been the N2 and NAVCENT, and at Bahrain and had been near just a couple of car bombs, immediately, and as soon as that, he had said, "They hit us. Gotta go." Hung up. Took me a second and I hung up the phone and immediately went to the window down to South Parking and I stood there for about a tenth of a second. I remember thinking "not the window," you know, "stupidest thing you can do is stand in front of the window," and kind of moved over to where, between the two windows. There's the wall section of that. CAPT MOORE was in the office. MISS LONG was still in her office. MISS MURVIS was there, MISS WRIGHT was actually, had actually gone across the

hall into the secretariat spaces at that moment when the plane hit. MISS MURVIS stepped into the hallway and went over, opened the door and this first thing I heard her say was, “There’s smoke in the hallway.” At which point CAPT MOORE said, “All right, get out.” I had enough presence of mind to grab, we’d moved all out, it’s an open storage skiff, but all our particularly compartmental stuff is in pouches. There was a pouch on my desk. Tells you what kind of an administrative geek I am, at that moment after, I could have told you where all the pouches in our office were and what was in them and what classification they were, which it became an issue later. But there was a pouch on my desk. Threw that into the two-drawer safe that was next to me, because I keep the safe that has all the pouches in it. Locked the safe up and went out the door basically with MISS LONG and CAPT MOORE, went out the door, turned right, actually went out the door. CAPT MOORE said, “Lock the door.” We were trying to lock it. I was honestly having some trouble getting the lock to engage. Both of us fussed with it. She got it to engage, and then we went, and I don’t remember looking back down the direction of impact. We just turned right outside of the door and headed out. We weren’t far from –

Q. Was -?

A. 3rd corridor, I think. 3rd corridor, so we turned left, went down the whole length of 3rd corridor and the smoke condition was building as we went and it was, it was building faster than we were walking.

Q. (31:53) Describe it, what did it look like?

A. Well I mean when we first walked out into the hallway it was, it was a light haze. I mean you could smell it. You could see it immediately, but you still had, you know, good visibility in that

as you went into 3rd corridor you know, it started getting, getting heavier and it got to the point where you could start to see something of a smoke layer in the hallway. I mean you could tell it wasn't just a tinge. It was darker toward the ceiling as it went down. I mean no problems breathing or that. No problems with visibility at that point, but we went down the length of 3rd corridor to where the escalator bank was. Went down the escalators and there was a running discussion between MISS LONG and CAPT MOORE about where we should go. The first instinct that both of them had, because I remember we were supposed to go down to the Command Center, and the discussion back and forth was, it's deep in the building. It's away from the parking lot you know, there's information there, which was the first instinct. Go to where the information is you know, safe and a place that you might be able to do something and at least find out what's going on.

So that whole discussion is going as we're going down the levels. You can see the smoke condition building towards the 4th corridor area and we hit the ground floor. You know that the fire doors going down 4th corridor, were smoke curtain type doors, started closed. They were partially open and there was smoke pushing out the hallway, and I remember telling them that "You're not going down that direction. You're going out," and we went out toward the courtyard and not knowing what had happened, the first instinct was to stay in right next to the building, you know. There are vehicles in the courtyard. There –

Q. (34:04) Did you all, did you know it was a plane?

A. No.

Q. (34:09) What did you think it was?

A. Car bomb. Seemed the most reasonable thing. Even after watching New York, car bomb is just, I mean it's so much easier. It's you know, it's much more in the realm of the possible. So yeah, I mean that was the first thought, and I don't know when the first person said, "Plane" I don't know, and that was one of the things in the course of the whole day. I spent most of the day in the courtyard. There was nobody in the courtyard with a radio, with a TV, with anything, but it was amazing the speed with which rumors were moving around the building, and you know, I heard all kinds of things during the course of that day. The least plausible of which was that the Twin Towers had fallen.

I'll tell you about how I found out about that later, but we weren't staying close to the building and there were some DPS folks there, basically, "Get away from the building. Get into the center of the Courtyard." So that's where we headed. But as you walked across the, out into the courtyard, there's that little roadway and then you start into the walkway going towards ground zero.

I was walking with both of them and CAPT MOORE was talking about, "Well, where do we rendezvous?" Her apartment was fairly close and she said something about well we can go there. That turned out to be where a lot of people rallied. And I got about twenty paces down the sidewalk and there had been a med - the first medical person I'd seen had been a person in a white coat from the DeLorenzo clinic who was right at the head of the walkway. Had a radio. Walked past her and I remember thinking, "Oh, if I don't stop, I'm going to regret it." And said to them, "I'm fine. I'll find you later. Keep going though," and they went and I turned around and went back to, I want to call her an Army Captain, but I don't know how much that was just an assumption on my part, because I knew she wasn't Navy and she was in like either green or pink hospital scrubs with a white coat over it. No rank identification, mid height, you know,

youngish officer. Had a radio and was - I remember I walked up to her on the radio basically calling back to the clinic saying you know, "I have multiple casualties. I have this." She's trying to describe, because she's standing in the courtyard and all you can see from the courtyard is the plume of smoke from the other side of the building. You really can't see, all - you knew something big. I mean she was trying to describe what she needed from the clinic and that. I walked up to her and said you know, 'I'm an EMT, can I help.'

She said, "Do you remember triage?"

"Yes," and she started pointing to the grass area there, and she started saying you know, "I want urgent here, and I want delayed here. I want routine here," and she just started pointing to where she wanted categories. Because the first thing you do in a mass casualty incident is you start apportioning people according to how rapidly they need care, and what you have to work with, and so I stood there at the exit there. Now I think because of the distance involved, going out that exit, the vast bulk of folks that were evacuating had already gotten out when we got there. We kind of were the furthest folks who were going to that exit I think. There was foot traffic coming out, but not a whole lot, and there was some folks coming out in distress and that and a lot of folks just coughing. Having some trouble breathing, and what I was doing was looking at them. Sitting them on the first park bench there, where they could sit and get their breath, and the other folks that were being carried out we were putting in the grass and at one point in this, fairly quickly OLIN SELL, LIEUENANT, SEAL-type, I think an N-75, knew him from a church, my previous duty station, great guy. Came up to me and I'd seen him around the Pentagon a couple of times so I knew he was there.

Came up to me and said you know, "What do you need?"

Said, "Are you a medic?"

“No, I’m honestly a SEAL, first aid training.”

Said, “This group over here is the folks that were having you know some kind of light smoke inhalation. Watch them. Tell me if any of them go bad.”

So he immediately went over there, and he later went off and did a number of things, in another dimension, but I mean he was in the thick of this and did great stuff.

There were, I remember all the folks that came out. It was interesting because the number of folks showing up from the clinic, just you know obviously at random, you know aid bags, and whatever they could carry, match the number of folks coming out injured fairly well, because the number of injured was actually surprisingly small.

Q. (40:00) It was.

A. And I mean there were, there was one fairly serious leg injury. There were a couple burn cases, but as they came out there was enough folks who had arrived from the clinic that there was nobody not tended immediately So you really didn’t have much of an issue in terms of triage because, because there was at least some rudimentary help for everybody. I have no real idea, I mean five, ten minutes, we’re out there and the whole time the Captain is walking around trying to describe to the clinic you know, what kinds of cases she’s got and what she needs. I’m just playing traffic cop out there.

This Air Force officer, the Captain had come over and was right next to me again, Air Force Lieutenant General comes up and looks at me and says, “You a doctor?”

“No, I’m an EMT. I’m doing triage.”

Looks over at the medical person obviously has a radio and says, “OK” if I remember correctly he says basically, “I’m the Air Force Chief of Surgeons. I’m also a trauma surgeon. I’ll be triage.

This is what I need,” and he proceeded to sit there and list to the Captain to try to relay back to the clinic, OK, “I need this kind of gear. This is the kind of injuries I’m expecting,” you know, “I’m expecting burns. I’m expecting respiratory involvement from flames and so forth. I need,” you know, “These kinds of kits,” and he I remember him saying you know, “Tell them to call up Andrews,” because there’s some kind of pre-positioned hospital that they have out there. He’s like, “I have this whole team out there,” you know, “It’s twenty-five doctors,” this and that, “tell them I need them here. Tell them I’m,” you know, “tell them I need my toys.” And she was trying to relay that and he started going around, I don’t know, he was the first doctor I saw on the scene. There was probably someone else that had made it out there at that point. But he immediately you know, started going through and from an expert position looking at everybody. I was kind of standing there going, “Well, I’ve been relieved. Great.” Not a bad thing, but here I’m going, “OK, well what do I do next.”

Right about that time this OS2 who I recognized from OPNAV Security, a guy named ROTOWSKI, came up and he was disheveled and he’d obviously been inside the building. He came up to the Captain and said, “Has anybody gone back in?”

She said, “No, none of the medical personnel are going back in the building.” That was one thing she was, and she was completely correct. She was setting up a staging area, hold the medical personnel here. Do this.

And she said, “No, none of my medical personnel are going back in the building.”

He said something about well there’s still people in the building.

She said, “You’re not mine. Do whatever you want.” And he turned around like a shot and went straight back toward the doors going into the building. And it’s the conflict between instinct and training, because fire service, they drum into you, you don’t go in alone. You don’t go in without

gear. You don't freelance. I mean you account for everybody. You do anything else, that's how firemen get killed.

I was standing there debating that when the OS2 came up and he goes back in and I'm like, "He's going back in alone. Well I can't let him do that." So there was a BLS bag sitting in the grass that nobody was using. These folks were just bringing gear from the clinic and dumping as they – I grabbed the BLS bags little orange first aid kit, like shoebox size. Grabbed that and there was a backboard and started following the OS2, and at some point as I was there I think, somebody, I think in retrospect it may have been OLIN SELL, but I don't know, grabbed the back of the board and we went back in and I'll be honest I respect them. The DPS folks were standing around kind of milling in the lobby to stop us as we were going back in. They I mean –

Q. (45:00) No problem.

A. I mean, kind of oblivious. Straight back in and 1st deck, 4th corridor the smoke curtains at that point had been opened and pulled aside. You know, there's still a fairly heavy smoke condition. I mean you can't see more than twenty feet down the passageway, and we go back down through there. As you go through there, there's an area where it opens and goes under the breezeway, and went back in there through that first set of doors, and at that point you're outside. There's a passageway over you, but it's open on the sides, no smoke condition, and you're kind of in a five-story canyon that is the breezeway around through the Pentagon and –

Q. (45:51) Between B and C ring.

A. Between B and C, and I turned right and there's a - how to describe it. You're in a five-story canyon, and I had completely lost the OS2 at the point. Don't know where he went. Think he

went into the breezeway. Don't know. I turned right down the breezeway, and there's like a sidewalk on the other side and the actual surface of the road, and the road is filled with water up to the level curb. I remember stepping into that, and I'm thinking the most ridiculous thoughts of the first day. I'm thinking, "there go the shoes." And there's you know debris and other stuff in the breezeway and in the water and that, and going on a way down the breezeway, your left-hand side what would be the C ring area. There were two openings in the first deck that had been blown in the building.

The first, the first is the one that I mean there's lots of smoke coming out of this. Black, heavy, oily, pushing smoke. Further down there's another hole in the side of the building where I mean it is, it is decked to the top of the hole it is flames. I mean the space has obviously collapsed over, and nobody was even trying to go back in that way. You could not have, the fire, you could not have got in there.

There was a door almost directly opposite the first opening, the one that the smoke was coming out of. I think it was still in its frame, like it, as if it had been blown out into the center of the area there, and it was above the level of the water. I set the backboard and the BLS bag there, and the guy who'd come in with me continued on, and around this area there are probably two dozen people almost all military, a couple of DPS guys, or I should say, at least I remember the military guys, I don't remember seeing any civilians, you know, every service, I remember, I remember thinking, I remember there was a couple of Army guys in particular who are all trying to get back into the building though the area that the smoke is coming out of. And you can see the hole there and you can actually see a little bit of looks, I assume it was furniture but it might have been equipment or something around the hole and I mean there, there are guys that have found like construction helmets from the construction that was going on in the building. I

remember an Army officer who was dragging a pressure washer. He passed me towards the opening that had flashed over, as if he was going you know, try to set up this garden hose. You know, you couldn't have gone in that space with a two and half inch line and this is the stuff guys were trying to do.

The, there were, there were guys that were like peeling off parts of their uniform and rolling in the water so they could get in closer toward the fire. I'm standing there by this door looking around and figured well, I'd better see what's in this first aid kit and I opened it up and I'd also grabbed a bag valve mask with it. Opened it up. Standard BLS kit. It's gauze pads and you know. The bag valve mask I thought that might actually be valuable and I started to put the bag valve mask together. Dropped the mask in the water at one point. Found that. Put it back together.

Q. (50:22) What's the bag valve mask used for?

A. It's one of those things you see on TV shows. You put it over somebody's face and there's a large section that you squeeze and it's used for, used for assisting ventilation.

Q. (50:12) CPR?

A. Yeah, I futsed with the first aide kit and tried to lay it out as if you could you know, put somebody on the backboard on the door and, and have the first aid kit there, which in retrospect seems very silly, because the first thing you would have done if you'd gotten someone out was get them away from the fire and out, and away from the building. But it seemed like a good idea at the time.

I don't have a good sense of how long I was actually in the breezeway. Couple minutes, five minutes. No more then ten, but at some point, the - which happened first? The DPS officer came

into the breezeway and started yelling for everybody to get out. And there had been stuff falling intermittently from the C ring side, because during the fire involvement you could tell from the way the windows was darkening was through all the floors. At some point some of the windows started breaking out. So you had glass and that starting to fall, and, you had the first Arlington Fire Department guys show up. It was only, I think it was a ladder company and there was only three of them, but they, and they started to come in and none of them had hand line. I mean they had a couple ladder company tools with them. They started to come in –

Q. (52:30) From the, in the breezeway.

A. I think they came in the same way. They came in yeah, into the breezeway, the first couple of them and between all of that I decided it was a good time to leave. Grabbed the stuff again. I don't even remember if I grabbed the backboard, and I went out. Same way I came. Back down 4th corridor into the courtyard and the uncertainty over how long I was actually in the breezeway comes from, I don't remember being in the breezeway very long, but when I came out, you know, GENREAL CARLTON who had taken charge of the medical stuff out there, everybody was gone. Everybody, all the medical folks, the patients. Everybody had gone and it turned out later found out, he organized everybody. Gotten them out of the building through some other route so the courtyard had become very deserted. Walked back out in there. There's the Arlington County Battalion Chief who set up right next to the building and is trying to run interior command from the back of his car, and at some point during this. I think it was before I went back in the building, I ran into IS2, now IS1 LHUILLIERr and LT MEGAN HUMBERT who were together and were coming out of the building and I'd asked about IP and she said basically that there were still people in IP.

Q. (54:49) Did you realize at that point that that's the area that got hit, or was that kind of a revelation of – ?

A. Well –

Q. How close to home it was?

A. Well, I remember in the breezeway looking at the area that flashed over and thinking very detached, “OK, I think that's the Command Center.” But it didn't sink in for days later. I mean, where exactly, I mean I have actually looked at building charts and I don't know where specifically IP was in relation to where I was standing, but the - I don't know, it's – the thought of standing in the breezeway and having looked in and I've heard from the IP folks how they got out, and they got out I think into the breezeway through a hole that had been blown.

I don't know which hole. I don't know where it was in relation. I don't know if the area that flashed over was where they got out, and that I was looking in the back of IP. I don't know. Part of me wants to know, part of me doesn't.

Q. (55:57) Right.

A. But, so I knew there was still people in IP that had not gotten out and I went up to the battalion chief I was just listening for a minute and there was some comment about where people were and I started to try to tell him there are still people in and I can tell you where, and you know, in retrospect I must have made absolutely no sense, because I was talking Pentagonese and room numbers and I'm sure he's, he's thinking about entirely other things, and if it was not self-evident that there was still people in the building, I mean, I was telling him the obvious, but

I took out from my wallet, a – that’s the second thing I lost that day – took out a bank slip I had. Started trying to write a description of where IP was and I gave it to his driver, who I’m sure I mean, it helped nothing. It made no sense at that point. I lost my wheel book earlier as well. I’d given that to the Captain, because she wanted something to start writing patient descriptions on and I’d – I was surface warfare, I always carry a green wheel book and I handed that to her, never saw that again, but they – and then I moved away from where the battalion chief was, kind of towards the ground zero area. There was a couple of Navy guys milling around, but I mean there weren’t many people there at all.

Q. (57:36) Described the, when you say PETTY OFFICER LHUILLIER and MEGAN HUMBERT. What did you see and what was their state? Just kind of describe what you can about that encounter.

A. I remember that LT HUMBERT was in a T-shirt and I don’t remember whether LHUILLIER had taken his uniform shirt off or not, because I talked to the Lieutenant and I didn’t talk to the IS2, I think, much at all. And it was basically, she came out and was standing there in the triage area basically first thing as you come out and you know, basically, “Did you get everybody out?”

“No,” you know, and –

“Those guys were still in the back in the meeting.”

I knew the meeting she was talking about. I’d seen them all gathered back there and –

Q. 58:38) Did that register at the time, or was that later for you.

A. Only academically at that point, as in “OK, that’s this many and OK you can tell me you saw this many got out so that’s OK. I know there’s a group of people here that aren’t accounted for.”

I mean, after, it was a very brief exchange. I mean she was completely coherent, very excited and insistent but completely coherent. After that she continued on with the IS2 down toward the ground zero area.

Q. (58:21) You didn't see PETTY OFFICER GULLEY OR SEAMAM COLE.

A. No.

Q. (58:23) OK

A. No, it was just the two of them. Yeah, very distinctly. (sigh) Yeah. But that was earlier. That was earlier. That was when folks were first, that was before I went back into the building, I ran into her. Again, I missed –

Coming away from the Battalion Chief towards the ground zero area there were some other Navy guys there. I remember talking to a couple of them briefly, and the Battalion Chief at some point elected to move his car from right up next to the building area, to something further away from the building. Good move, good place to put command. And a bunch of firefighters started coming out of the building. There were a couple of DPS officers in the courtyard and they started talking, yelling about another plane coming and all the firefighters started bailing out of the building. There were probably two or three companies worth, maybe ten guys. I remember, I mean it was the right move to pull them out of the building at that moment with the prospect of another plane. But I remember them looking very disgusted. You know dropping their packs and sitting down in the grass behind ground zero shack, opposite side from the 3-4 corridor. You know dropping their packs, I mean not wanting to be there. Wanting to be back in the building

and there was still carts of, of like bottled water and that had been left out in the ground zero area from the you know, setting up for lunch and that.

A couple guys and I grabbed some of those, drug them over and started throwing bottled water to the firefighters and talking to the couple Navy folk that were there, and at some point around them, because we're all "Where do you go if there's another plane coming?" Well I started to think at that point about well maybe I should leave the building. Well which direction to go. Maybe I'll just stay here.

There was an F-16 that came over and because we were in the courtyard you know, there's no warning. You couldn't see it. There was just the noise of this aircraft you know, coming east to west over the building. I was face first in the grass when I heard that. Everybody jumped. The plane goes over and you see it's an F-16, and folks are cheering. Finally, and I suppose if we were pleased to see an F-16, it had somehow sunk in at that point that it was an airplane, but I don't know at what point that realization dawned on me, but it was a pretty good thing to see. I have to caveat, a couple of things. From that point is where my sense of what happened and in what order really gets mushy, because the F-16 coming over as a fixed moment, I mean you can go back and figure out when the airplane actually went over the building, and at some point in all this, the rest of the front part of the building collapses.

One of the things that has bothered me and I haven't sat down and written it out, because I mean, it's another discrete moment in time. I know where I was when the building collapsed and for some reason that bothers me. I mean I would think I would have noticed. That it would have made some kind of noise, because it collapsed very early on. Of what I've seen there are virtually no pictures of the building before the floors actually failed. I don't know if that was before or after the airplane or what.

But after that I mean I can, I just want to say my sense of chronology gets worse from that point until I eventually leave the building.

The 16 goes over, at some point the firefighters go back in the building, and I think the all clear and the 16 are probably related. They go back in the building and the courtyard is really empty and there is a whole lot of medical equipment. I mean drug out there by the De Lorenzo folks and by other folks that have just been left. There was an Army Combat Medic, I believe a Master Sergeant by the name of ROSE who was also in the courtyard, and he and I went around and people had been taking anything out of the clinic that could move. And there were rolling bins. There were what looked like cruise boxes. There were I mean the easy stuff, the aid bags, the first aid kits had all -, but they left all the big stuff and so we went around and just started collecting up and classifying and scavenging, you know. Box here, OK, put all the splints in this box. OK, set, OK we've got a whole bunch of O₂ cylinders. I remember one of the things that came up, we found all kinds of O₂ cylinders. We, I don't think I ever did find a regulator. So I mean we've got all these cylinders, no regulators. You know and because it was bins of stuff I mean, you had drawers full of specimen collection kits, and stuff that was just of absolutely no use. So we spent some time trying to put that together and at some time after that a number of, a number of folks came back into the courtyard area and with GENERAL CARLTON. What I later found was he'd gone out with the initial casualties and with the medical people he had, and had gone to some outside medical staging area and then had organized a bunch of medical people and brought them back into the courtyard. So he went out there in the courtyard with this, you know the people he brought back in and probably anything, I mean other, I mean the folks he brought back in and whatever folks were in the courtyard, just started showing up and wanting to help and that.

And he stood up there and managed to organize this entire operation with the, and the, it's was beautifully done. It was the "OK, doctors over here. Nurses over here. EMTs over here. OK, everybody count off into four groups. All right, one's over here, two's over here, three's over here, four's over here. OK. This is the urgent care group. You're going to set up over here. You're going to do," this, and down the road.

"OK, this is the medical equipment that we've got all assembled. OK, this is the stuff that we're going to share back and forth. This is the stuff that's going to be held in the Urgent Care area. This is," you know and he had with him, I remember there was a Captain who had a radio that he could talk back to the other medical area, and his role was basically is you've got casualties in that casualty collection area, to relay that information back to the folks outside so folks can get transported out and with all the perfect resources. And even to the point that there were, there were folks ranging from experienced physicians, EMTs to folks that were just there trying to help.

And folks started basically doing classes right there. There was someone out there, you know, reviewing the, "OK, this is the basics of how you do," you know CPR. How you do this, how you, you know, and a lot of folks trying to focus effort. And honestly a lot of sitting around, too. There were a group of guys that just appointed themselves to take all the soft drinks from around the ground zero areas, they were all the bins, the rolling fullers (phonetic) and that, and they're trained guys. They decided OK, the rescue workers are going to need hydration. This is all soda. Soda's not a good thing. They took all the bottles, emptied all of them, went back into an unaffected part of the building and found a water tap somewhere. Filled all the bottles back up with water and were bringing them back out and as the firefighters were going in and out were just throwing water to people and that.

You know there were, I mean there were actually, there were guys that broke into some of the soft drink machines and that that were around ground zero. I went back in the building at one point and I think 8th corridor there was three Army Field Grade officers with a sledge hammer beating open a juice machine to get the juice to take out to the rescue workers.

One of the things that impressed me retrospect, I mean, made perfect sense; I helped carry the stuff out - was what these guys took was juice and stuff for hydration. Nobody touched anything else, so interesting. And you know, I mean guys took cleaning carts and that to load supplies on, to load water onto and take that out.

And a lot of sitting around, and talking to a couple folks, but the thing that colors the whole thing is, you know, from the moment I went back in the building, very shortly after all this started, nobody came out of the building. All the, in terms of injured. All the organization, everything that, I mean, all those folks and GENERAL CARLTON and everybody else were trying to do, it was all done in the first ten minutes. At some point during the course of the afternoon. Probably about 1400, I'd been out there for hours you know, the General in consultation with the folks outside and that said, "Well, we're probably going to bring people out to the front area, not through the courtyard area at this point," and at some point in all this they actually managed to get a couple of fire trucks into the courtyard, which I'm sure is a trick. The rescue crews were working on that end.

The General decided we don't need this many people here. "They may need you out on the other side, so divide off in half, pretty much at random and half of the folks you know, take this stuff and go out."

So we went out through and DPS figured out a route to get everybody out through the building. We went out through one of the vehicle exits. I guess it's around 1st corridor I think. There's a

vehicle exit that goes out on the first deck. Then we walked out through there and I was with a couple of guys that had a rolling stretcher and I have no idea how it got into the courtyard, but they'd piled a bunch of the supplies on it to get them out and they were having trouble getting it over the hoses as they were going out that way. So it took a number of guys to lift it over the hoses.

We walked out by, it would be the South Parking area, and the whole medical staging area was off in the roadway opposite the helo hanger, out back that area. Walking out and seeing the building for the first time, and just I mean (sigh) I mean on the one hand, you're very, someone that has seen and read about a number of fires and collapses and that could be very academic. On the other hand just the you know, "This isn't the building I was just working in" kind of sense.

We went around to the medical staging area where there were hundreds of folks who were basically just grouped there hoping that they'd have a chance to help with someone. In a military fashion, in the grass there not far from the helo hanger, everybody laid out every stretcher and backboard that had been brought out. It was a row, couple hundred feet long. Two rows and you know, a couple guys for every stretcher and I sat down on one of them with everybody else who was milling around there, and watched the rest of the effort a little and started righting a note on my Palm Pilot, which amazing enough was still working in all this and –

Q. (01:14:23) Writing a note -?

A. It, I was still learning to use it so I was writing very slowly, but I was actually starting to write down a note as to what had happened that morning, and it was as much to keep myself busy as anything, because I remembered thinking in the courtyard several times, because you know lulls where you don't have anything to busy yourself with and there's nothing immediately that needs

to be done, stopping and thinking, promising myself I was not going to cry until I got home. (he sounds like he might cry) That I'd get through the day and do that.

So it was just as much to do something as anything. And there were, there were folks coming in and out. I think the Secretary of the Army went through and there were more nervous people with guns than I've seen in a long time.

There was one moment when I guess one of the firefighters was you know, hurt himself, you know, very minor but they brought him down from, I think the third deck on a ladder, one of the – I don't remember what kind of ladder. Probably one of the tower ladders, and you know they've got this guy and they're helping him out and this row of several hundred DoD guys who's standing there, just start spontaneously applauding as they're leading this guy off the field. And I remember seeing the first USAR Team arrive, you know, big trailer and the bus that they parked and then they all got out.

Q. (01:16:17) That's the Urban Search and Rescue?

A. Urban Search and Rescue, and I – that - was one of those, I was reasonably familiar with that because Virginia Beach had an Urban Search and Rescue Team and part of the department and I mean fantastic. I mean well trained, very capable, but it was one of those that when I saw that, the first USAR Team show up (sigh), as they are walking in on the one hand it's you know "Great the professionals are here." On the other hand it's the "By the time they get here, it's pretty much a loss."

At some point in this, I was, Oh, and the other thing is, this whole field area, there are chunks of the airplane.

Q. (01:17:16) Did you know at that time, or were you, did all that kind of focus later?

A. I knew airplane, I mean I think I knew airplane by the time the F-16 came over. I mean that's the only way I can explain the reaction, and you've got the DPS guys saying, "There's another plane coming."

So OK, I guess it sunk in at that point. I couldn't tell you exactly when, but if you come out, I mean there's the control tower there in the collapsed area. There are chunks of the plane around. I mean there are some sizeable chunks up close to the building. Parts you can still read the inscription from the aircraft. And you know folks have laid out all their, all their, the backboards and that and there are parts of the plane mixed in where everybody's trying to stage all the medical stuff. At some point, I assume they were FBI, but some guys showed up and you know immediately start you know, pick pieces of the plane, you know "Can't move this. I need to stand here next to this like a human pylon until," and at some point they basically say, "OK, there's too much, too much evidence out here, everybody," you know, "go back behind the guardrail." So we've all the, the stretchers stilling there and they've put everybody up by the guardrail.

While I was up by the guardrail ran into LCDR TIM PIERCE who was from N-23 who was actually on a bike, biking off to somewhere. I talked to him briefly and he said, "Yeah, all of our folks seem to be fine."

I said, "Well, if you see anybody tell them I'm still here." At some point I also ran into LT. HUMBERT and LHUILLIEAR again and somebody else. I don't remember his name but he was, he was I think from the NIMJIC (National Military Joint Intelligence Center), Navy guy, Lieutenant, I think. We talked for a bit and at that point she had already talked to, I think CAPTAIN MOORE and so forth and you know, they've been doing this whole effort off scene

to try to muster everybody. And about that time, they come out and say, “OK, the folks from the old guard are going to arrive here shortly. When they get here,” you know, “we’re going to send all the adhoc groups home,” and probably about three they showed up, I think, and I remember thinking very odd, because I think the first ones I saw, they weren’t armed, and I remember thinking that was very strange. But they, the old guard guys started to show up and they gathered this whole adhoc mass of several hundred people together and said you know, “OK, basically we’re going to turn this over, unless we need – “ you know “thank you very much.” One very thoughtful thing, they had one of the military chaplains that was there offer a prayer and then they dismissed everybody. And this whole group just broke up and disappeared.

Q. (01:20:32) Do you remember who the chaplain was?

A. No.

Q. By chance?

A. No, not at all. I was on the outside. I could hear him, but I couldn’t have seen, I couldn’t have told you who was in the middle talking.

They dismissed everybody and –

Q. (01:20:47) Do you remember his prayer? Was that too far back?

A. No, I mean, it was short. Not complicated and appropriate, but I couldn’t remember it.

And we were dismissed and I had been talking to, I mean the folks that had been out and about, CDR PIERCE and other folks that “well, what’s closed off and can you get anything out?”

They said, “Well,” because I was parked in South Parking, they said, “Well, they’re not letting anything back in to South Parking.”

My car was out there and “Well, maybe I can get out,” because they were trying to figure out how were they going to get people home, and so forth, and what we eventually hit on was LHUILIER and HUMBERT and they knew somehow and I don’t know how, that the rest of the office had gone up to the Navy Annex into GENERAL INNES who is the Director of Marine Corps Intelligence’s office. Made perfect sense, and they, I don’t know where they learned of that, but they told me that. and they said they were going to go back up to the Annex, because they still needed to help muster people and so forth, but the one Lieutenant lived in Alexandria and didn’t have a way to get home.

So what I said was, “Well, I’ll take him home and then come up to the Annex.” So I - the two of us went out to my car and we managed to get it out of, out of South Parking, find an open road, and I don’t know which roads were closed and open at that point. Get down to Alexandria, drop him off, turn around and go back to the Annex.

Then getting back in, getting back in was an adventure, because –

Q. (01:22:52) To the Annex?

A. Getting back to the Annex. Oh absolutely, because I’m doing side roads and trying to get in. Coming in Columbia Pike, and I’ve only been to the Annex a couple of times, and there was a road block of federal agents was screening everybody who was going near the annex, and that was really strange because I think, I remember thinking it was very off, because the first guy who was there was like an INS officer. I mean he’s just out there in his Federal Agent jacket, screening folks. There was I mean a baker’s dozen of who was there. A State Trooper and

everything else, and the first guy I said, you know, “This is who I am and I need to go to the Annex, “ said, “You’re good.”

The second guard stopped me and said, “Nope, you can’t,” which confused the first guard and at that point I wasn’t going to argue and they weren’t in a mood to argue. So I wound up going down the road, parking a ways away in some residential neighborhood, and walking back towards the Annex, hoping that I could get passed these guys again, and walking they didn’t have a problem with, because they figure, “Ah, they’ll turn him away later.”

I had a Pentagon Building badge, an idea where I was going and that. So somehow I managed to get into the Annex property and find this place and I remember getting lost going up there. Going to the Marine Corps Intel spaces and walking in there. In there there’s an office about the size of this theater, and open office, bunch of desks and it’s everybody from the front office and you know a bunch of other folks and I remember walking in and the, I don’t remember who I talked to first, but at some point, somebody who was acting as a watch officer, I think, somebody said, you know, “You heard about the World Trade Center? Now, the Towers collapsed.”

And you know we heard in the courtyard when we were out there about, you know, bombs at the State Department, more airplanes, airplanes crashing at Camp David and the World Trade Center, and you know, out of all those I probably considered that one the least likely.

They said, “Well, no, we’ve got pictures,” and they showed me the pictures and come back to that, but the, I mean that’s kind of when that sunk in and the big focus there was you know, “account for our people,” and that’s what everybody was doing. They had you know, every phone list and who’s seen who, and they had taken a white board, probably a three by five whiteboard and they had drawn IP and the rooms. They had written in there the names of who was in which space, because I’m sure when the IP folks, LHUILLIER, HUMBERT, everybody

else got up there, they had sat them down and gone through and said, “Where’d you last see everybody?” Everybody was where I last saw them, and interesting thing, we were up in the Annex, I want to say for two months. Nobody ever erased that board. We left that board up there when we left, and when we walked out of that office and gave it back to the Marine, and no, nobody ever erased it at that point.

Anyway, I mean we copied the information on a sheet, but nobody was willing to erase the board. And I think that was when it sunk in. There was the layout of IP and so forth.

Q. (01:27:35) At that time did it flashback about being there? Or was that something you would reflect on later?

A. (sigh) Later

Q. You were still compartmentalizing it at that time, weren’t you? Technically understanding it, seeing it?

A. Or just obtuse, I don’t know, but it didn’t really sink in until I think when I got home that night. I had actually managed to get a call through to my wife.

Q. (01:28:09) What time was that?

A. It was while I was standing around after I had come out of the courtyard with all the folks and the stretchers and that and I didn’t carry a cell phone with me at that time and the folks in the courtyard, a couple folks had cell phones. Nobody could get them to work. There was a guy who was standing next to me, who’d managed to get a call through and when he was done I said, “Can I borrow your phone?”

“No problem.”

Q. (01:28:35) And you managed to get through?

A. I managed to get through, and –

Q. (01:28:35) Tell me about that conversation.

A. It was very terse. My wife, you know Naval Academy graduate, surface warfare. She’s in the Reserves now, and actually her parents had been in town visiting, which was a very good thing. We live over on (he’s crying) – I’m sorry.

Q. (01:28:57) That’s OK.

A. We live over on Bolling Air Force Base, which you know has this gorgeous view of the city and we have a house down right by the new research lab. I get more upset talking about her than, I was when starting. We have this house that looks out over the Potomac, the research lab and (sigh) she had, I mean she’s a reserve Intel Officer and she’s –has the instinct I do. She wants to know what’s going on and she had been watching the TV after, first turned it on after the first plane, and you know, my in-laws had been sort of shuttling back and forth trying to keep – we have two sons. Their four and two and a half, trying to keep them away from the TV, which is easy where we are geographically in terms of where the TV is, and because I mean she didn’t want them to see the airplanes flying into the buildings and that. They were playing over and over. They managed to keep most of this from the kids, and she told me later, much later, actually she made an interesting comment. She said, she described how the TV went to this kind

of low building which she couldn't identify. There was smoke coming out of it and she thought it was Israel or something.

Q. (01:30:42) Wow.

A. There was no, it was just the picture of the building (he's becoming more emotional) and she told me later, "Tom, you know, I've always wondered what I would do when a car pulled up with the Chaplain." She said, "I screamed," because they put up the little tag line "The Pentagon" and she's in our bedroom and then when she got through screaming she went to the window and she could see up the Potomac to the building, so she got to stand in our house and watch the building burn.

Q. (01:31:27) Wow.

A. But it was a terse conversation because she had realized very quickly and part of the problem was, you know, she described it, you know, streets full of Navy people, that's the Navy part of the housing on Bolling and after a while you know the first guys that got out of the building started making it back on base, you know through the traffic and everything else. Everybody's out in the streets comparing notes, you know "Well this guys, this guys home, he worked in this part of the building," and all my wife knows is we just moved offices. So she doesn't think, all she knows is my description of "Well, were on the fourth floor and we've got a view of South Parking and a tree."

So she's there looking at the pictures trying to figure out where the office is you know and comparing notes with everybody just coming home, and she didn't have numbers for most of the folks, but she had, she had the phone number for BOB RUCK, who's now Commander. He was

a Lieutenant Commander at the time, who was the guy I relieved as Deputy EA, and she had his number at home and she called and BOB called out to ONI. The ONI front office was trying to keep track of who was accounted for and what, and they were able to say that everybody from the DNI's front office was out.

So my wife had found that out probably about noon, so when I finally got through to her a couple of hours later, I mean it was a very short conversation, but basically, the you know, "I'm OK."

"Yeah, I know."

"I'm going to be a while."

"Yeah, I know."

"OK, well so you know," and that was kind of the end of the conversation.

Q. (01:33:26) And that was the first word she had gotten obviously. Wow.

A. Yeah, and she, she had been on a roller coaster that day, so I completely understand. I'm sure I probably didn't make a whole lot of sense either.

But anyway I had gotten a hold of her, I guess to return the beam back up in the Annex. Who'd been accounted for. Who'd seen who and just going through the roster. I mean sure, you've heard, one of the things that came out of this was keeping a better roster of who's where in the building and all that. We were peicemealing and there were people reporting to work that week, new employees, new check ins, people, trying to figure out people visiting TAD, you know, we were supposed to have a meeting with this person from outside the building. Has anybody heard from this guy, you know? We were just working that and all the while trying to figure out how to – what to do next. I don't remember the minute to minute details of what happened that afternoon and into that evening up in the Annex. I remember a couple of things. When I walked

in the door, probably between 16, 1700 I think, you know, they'd already started to stand up a watch there. A defacto CURN Intel watch manned with whoever happened to walk through the door. "Sit down here and start taking notes."

There were a number of people who called in who you know wanted to help and said they needed, you know, what and at that point most of them were being told, you know, stay at home. We'll figure out what we're doing. We'll give you a call, but there were some folks there in the mid-grade officer types that had gotten put on the watch. N20, CAPTAIN DORSET who I'd been talking to on the phone was there.

One interesting thing about this experience is getting to watch people under pressure. Very interesting, not having gone through something quite like this before, because folks I expected a great deal from, ahhhh, not always there, and there were other folks that absolutely based on what I saw those couple of days, I'd go anywhere with them. I mean GENERAL CARLTON –

Q. (01:36:24) He was the three-star you talked about?

A, The three-star I talked about –

Q. (01:36:25) Air Force?

A. Air Force, actually lives over on Bolling. I ran into him at random last week and finally got to, to say thank you to him for what he did. It was probably one of the most impressive pieces of spontaneous leadership I have ever seen.

Q. (01:36:42) Did you tell him that?

A. Yes.

Q. (01:36:42) Wow.

A. And very, very, very much a gentleman. Basically said, well said, 'It was a special opportunity to serve.'

But CAPTAIN DORSET, N20, was there and he was another person very focused. "Ok, what does the DNI need. OK, we need a watch. All right." Boom, he started putting together a watch-bill. "This is how we're going to do it. We can set it up in here. These are the people, these are the kinds of things you need." Immediately basically did, "Don't worry about the watch. I've got the watch. I'll run it. You worry about the other things you guys need to worry about, and we'll put a current Intel capability here."

Great, I mean it was, it was good to watch.

The Admiral and MISS LONG both held up very well. The Admiral game faced the entire way, even though I mean, he talked later and you should probably talk to him about his experience in all this. I mean he was outside the room he was going to testify in on Capital Hill when I think it was LT NELSON got the word that a plane hit the Pentagon. They walked back from the Capital to the Pentagon and met up with folks there and then started to try reconstituting, but I mean another very, very focused, what we need to do. Although –

Very interesting phenomena I have a PETTY OFFICER that works for us that has expressed guilt for not having been in the building. She was suppose to come on duty like about eleven at that point, it's not my supplicational (phonetic) thinking that that's true. And we were there through the whole evening. I mean we had the whole list and the list got whittled down and there was one person; I don't remember who. I mean literally 2200, now we've got this down to a fairly tight list of like twelve I think, down to ten people who were unaccounted for and then

there's no more news and it's mostly all the folks in IP, and there's one guy who literally between the transportation and living far away and everything else, didn't get home 'til late at night and we're up there in the Annex having called his home and having – get this phone call, “Yeah, he just walked in the door.”

“Will you tell him we're glad he's safe, and we're going to hunt him down and kill him,” at that point you know.

We were, the front office staff, our little group were very much focused on the “Account for everybody” and go from there, and LYNN WRIGHT, new to the team at that point, basically became the casualty liaison officer. I mean she was never formally designated, but she spent the next month or more figuring out, I mean that night she was there on the phone trying to figure out, “OK, who is the next of kin for all these people?”

Well I mean in the Pentagon you don't have everybody's service record. It's somewhere else. You don't have access to page twos and all that and you're trying to find out who do I need to talk to, and when we got down to a fairly short list that evening, it was “OK, who knows this family that can go out there?”

We sent somebody to every family that evening.

Q. (01:41:06) with the CACO? With the official CACO, chaplain or?

A. I don't know if there were official CACOs yet that evening. I don't remember.

Q. (01:41:13) The evening of the 11th?

A. Yes.

Q. Oh, OK.

A. I'm talking before it was, it was the "Make sure there is somebody with, " all these, and that was something. That was the theme through the next, it still is, the taking care of the families. I mean every family that we had had a CACO, had a command liaison and had a whole host of other people that were just trying to support and even work the administrative side on these things. And, -

Q. (01:41:50) Was that being directed by the Admiral.

A. Oh yes, absolutely.

Q. (01:41:54) Is that something that he said, "This is what we're going to do?"

A. Absolutely I mean there were other people with experience doing different things. Had, "Ok, well we should do it this way," but the yeah the families as a priority, I mean and that was I know, you know it was draining on the whole office. It had to be and from watching up close was very draining on the Admiral, on MISS LONG. I mean it's a very much akin to being the Captain and having part of your crew lost. I mean he took that personal ownership of these people and what needed to be done. I mean the, this is probably going further then you want, but I meant I think it was the Sunday after, I mean he and MISS LONG went to every family in the area, personally. Did this whole circuit around the DC area, took the entire day to try and spend some time with all the families.

Q. (01:43:94) Together?

A. Together. To try to spend some time with the families of the folks that were still unaccounted for. This was a significant effort. I mean at the same time that you know you're running CURN Intelligence, that you are trying to figure out where your staff's going to be day after tomorrow.

Q. (01:43:30) Preparing for war.

A. Yes, and we didn't shift into thinking of it in terms of preparing for war probably for a day or more. It was, it was very much the, I mean we were very focused close in. But yes, I mean that was one of the things that I mean we found, I mean the OPNAV Staff, Title 10 – train, man, equip, and all of a sudden, and the DNI's schedules and priorities before the 11th reflected that. There was a lot of current Intel but generally it was something you dealt with in the morning. You talked to the CNO or the Vice-Chief about it and after that unless something significant happened, we were pretty much done with CURN Intel for the day. We had other things to focus on. From the 11th on I mean this has very much been CURN Intel driven and the appetite for intelligence is just phenomenal. And all that has happened at the same time that everybody's displaced. We are operating out of spaces given to us by the Marines. They basically took their HUM intelligence folks, threw them out of their office. DNI can have this as long as he needs, but in trying to set up productivity, trying to figure out simple things it was probably three or four days, we'd been up in the Annex when AIR FORCE MAJOR walks in who is the NSA COURIER, that's what he did in that assignment. He was the Courier who brought NSA hard copy intelligence products to the IP. And I mean he'd gone there every day for probably a year or more, and I saw him occasionally. But he was there just to drop stuff off and IP would deal with it and bring us what we needed. And he just showed up in the office and you know he'd been trying to find out where IP had gone to in the last couple of days so he could bring us our

stuff. And I mean, one of those people that we forgot about in terms of this is someone who dealt with IP often, you know who I mean was obviously knew them well and –

Q. (01:46:19) Wow

A. All of a sudden he shows up and back here everyday and brings you the stuff you need and I mean just the things like that that just started cropping up.

To return to the eleventh, just to try to put a bookend on this before I digress too much, at some point late that evening, it was the you know, we've done everything we can tonight. You know the day started early and we're up at the Annex, probably about 2300, we're like "we need to start sending people home."

I left and make my way back to my car and went back circuitous route, because you know, the normal routes are still all closed off, because I drive pass the Pentagon, back to Bolling and Bolling of course is locked down and I pull up and there was a huge line of cars. This is 2330, trying to get back on the one gate that is open on Bolling and I sat outside the gate of Bolling for another hour trying to get back in.

I was not going to begrudge them that, by any means, thinking of the families in there, and I'd rather they were careful at this point, but spending another hour – and went back to the house and I really did not want to talk to anybody. I at least wanted to talk to ■■■■ and just her. I went in the house and my wife with typical, typical way she does things, had already packed me a bag, under the assumption that if I came back it would be to grab a bag and go away for a while.

I wound up going back into my locker, a storage area in the back and I have a set of fire department turnout gear, it's my own. I still have a helmet that's marked DCA. It's my personal one, but I marked it as DCA and put a star emblem on the front. It's one of my trademarks when

I did that job. Took a gear bag, loaded all my turn out gear and my helmet, good flashlight, coveralls, whole nine yards into this bag. Put it in the back of my car. Part because I had at one point during the course of the day ran into a guy, and I'd asked him something about his engine company and - some guy in turnout gear, "What firefighters?"

He said, "I'm not really with," you know whatever fire department. "I'm a volun —" he's a military guy. I forget. I don't really remember where or who, but it would be an incredible story, military guy, volunteer firefighter on the side you know evacuated the Pentagon, you know went to one of the trucks that pulled up and basically said "Look I know what I'm doing. I need a set of gear," and the guys happened to have an extra set of gear and you know began breaking all the rules and that, this guy had talked them out of a set of turnout gear, and there he was. I mean he just basically found an engine company and said, "I'm with you guys," and I was finding myself thinking, well, - No, he might have had it in his car. That is why I took the gear and put it in the car. But anyway, military guy, volunteer firefighter with turnout gear and I'm thinking, you know, this is not going to happen to me again. I'm going to have my gear in the car. It's still there.

Q. (01:50:50) Really from that time.

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know who he is?

A. I have no idea. I don't think I'd even recognize him. He was in turnout gear at that time, but yeah.

Q. (01:51:07) So you put it in your car. Did you stay home that night?

A. Yes, I put it out in my car and went upstairs and, and [REDACTED] came up and that was when I cried.

Q. WOW.

A. And –

Q. (01:51:28) You'd held it all in until that moment?

A. Pretty much, yes. And by that point, 12:30 almost one and the day for us starts 5:30 the next morning so cried for a while and at that point I told her exactly how close we'd been to all of this. And if it mattered to her in the least, I don't know. If I needed to tell her, but and then I went to bed. Set the alarms, went to bed and been in bed like half an hour, about 1:30 in the morning, the entire alert system on Bolling Air Force Base, all the air raid sirens start going off, and wake up, we're piling out of bed. I'm standing in there in the dark in the bedroom going, "I have no idea what that means, or what I'm suppose to do right now, but this is really something I do not need." And stand there for a minute or two and [REDACTED] like "Well, shall I wake the kids up?"

I'm from the Midwest, you know you have a basement. Sirens go off, you go to the basement, because it means tornadoes coming. We don't have a basement here, so we look at each other. The sirens stop and, actually somebody came around with the PA system and says, "It was a mistake," I still have, I still have no idea why the sirens were set off or who accidentally hit the button or whatever, but that pretty much capped the day for me. It was back to the Navy Annex the next morning.

That was very interesting being at the Annex, because the Annex I mean looks over. I think one of the moments that hit me the most was the second day coming out of the Annex, because when I went in in the morning it was dark. I came out that night and it was dark, leaving work at a similar hour and parked along the fence line toward Arlington. Walked out of the main gate of the Annex and looked down and by that time they had lit the whole thing up. And so I mean it's just I mean it's there and I stopped and stood there just a few minutes and (emotional)

Q. (01:54:42) You can still see it, can't you? You can still see the scene.

A. Oh yes, yeah. That moment. That moment and then VINCE TOLBERTS funeral there were, I mean, there was seven people that we lost, which meant seven funerals we had to go to, and the COMMANDER TOM POUCE (phonetic) who had been in the DC area showed up I think the next day after the eleventh or a day or two later, because he was supposed to relieve CAPT MOORE as EA and he showed up a couple of days later, and in the process of all this was trying to turn over with CAPT MOORE, but he and I were trading off with all the people in the office so that some of us could go to the funerals. We couldn't close down the office, but somebody would get to go and if it was somebody you particularly felt, "I should go to this one." There was a way to do that. CDR POUCE (phonetic) made a particular point of going to CDR PAT DUNN'S funeral. Another interesting one, CDR. DUNN had been LCDR PAT DUNN Chief engineer of USS *Elmer Montgomery* down in Mayport when I was on *Stark*. I had cross decked for a month on TAD on *Elmer Montgomery* in process of trying to get my SWO (Surface Warfare Officer) Qualifications. I knew him from there, but he was also another volunteer firefighter on the NEDRICK (phonetic) on the same volunteer fire department I was on. So we'd been firemen together and I, he was one of those people that I just ran into on a regular basis on

the sense of I didn't keep in regular touch with him, but it was one of those, you'd go places and all of a sudden there he is and we'd talk. And there I run into him in the new command Center. "Oh, you're still in the building," and so, yeah, one of the many other things he was, he was a fireman. But CDR TOLBERT'S funeral I believe, the first one I went to, and they did the burials down at the new area of Arlington which is close to the Navy Annex and the funeral was up at the Old Post Chapel and then walked down to where the burials area. The burial site actually looks over the south face of the Pentagon. And walking around the bend of the trees and seeing the Pentagon, the area that's been destroyed and the gravesite all together at once is another one of those images. I don't know if that was a considered thing that the Navy Arlington did in terms of where they, or if that was just the area that was open by whatever lottery they use at Arlington, but –

Q. (01:58:15) Seems very fitting.

A. It does, it does, but you know, well it was one of those things when you thought about it, it was fitting, it was rather astonishing and unexpected to walk around that bend and have all that –

Q. See all that. Anything else you want to add about 9-11? I'd like to break about this point and just go a few minutes on kind of life sense and some of classified. Anything else you want to add for this portion of it?

On behalf of the Naval Historical Center thanks for telling us your story about that day.

Transcribed by:
Ms. Ethel Geary
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