

**Naval Historical Center
Oral Interview Summary Form**

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Capt Gary Hall
Capt Steve Horowitz
Capt James Wombwell

Interviewer's Organization:

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Interviewee:

LT Olin M. Sell

Current Address:

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Work – N751

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

Abstract of Interview:

Interviewee Information: Lt Sell was born in ████████████████████. His father is a musician who is a French horn player for Broadway shows. His mom taught piano. Very little military background in his family. His extended family was mostly farmers in the Midwest. He went to the Naval Academy because his father encouraged him to apply. Majored in Naval Architecture. Was accepted for the SEAL program about 3 months after he graduated from the Academy. Went on a short exercise in Thailand, then attended Language School in Monterrey, California to study German. Transferred to SEAL Team 2 as a Platoon Commander in 1998. Then in June 2000 was sent to Washington, DC for the N751 office in Expeditionary Warfare/Naval Special Warfare Branch. They were located in 5C455 in the Pentagon on September 11.

Topics Discussed:

On 11 September he got to work around 0800. He was on the phone with someone when Mark Pugh, in his office, called out that the World Trade Center had been hit. He got off the phone and went over to a TV in their office and watched. Then they saw the second plane hit the second tower. He called his parents, in New York City and left them a message. His cell phone rang, he went to pick it up and then there was a loud explosion. The whole building shook very hard. He thought that 500 pounds of C4 (plastic explosive) had hit the building. CDR Powell told them "Everybody out of the building". They started running down the C corridor towards the center courtyard. Everybody was moving that direction so it seemed the natural way to go.

Sliding doors started closing off the hallways, with people trying to get through the doors before they closed. When he got to the second deck he had lost most of the people from his office, and could only find 3 others. He had lost CDR Powell. LT Sell was with the civilians from his office. Things seemed to be moving in slow motion. They could hear sirens and the lights were flashing. A calm, computerized voice was saying, "Please exit the building". Some secretaries were crying, but people were mostly calm. He doesn't remember any smoke right away. He still couldn't find CDR Powell. There were people trying to get them to go into the courtyard. He didn't think going outside was a good idea, but the civilians with him went outside right away.

He went outside to the courtyard to see if CDR Powell was there. Then he saw all the black smoke in the air from the area he had just left. He smelled jet fuel, but because he was thinking it had been explosives he still thought it was a bomb. Another CDR, CDR Atkins told him to go find his people and check in with them. So he found about 6 or 7 people from his area and told them everybody in his office got out. He asked if anyone had seen CDR Powell. They said they hadn't so he said he was going to look for CDR Powell.

There were corpsmen at the entrance to corridor 4 so he went over there. He saw one person totally burned from head to toe walking out of the building from the bottom floor of the Fourth Corridor. People were helping him. There were a lot of people standing around. Lt Sell ran over and grabbed two petty officers and told them to go around to all the people and ask for medical people. He went over to the corpsmen and told them that he was a SEAL but not EMT qualified. He was mad he hadn't taken the EMT training in Monterrey.

There were about 4 or 5 folks sitting on a bench in different stages of injury, but not in need of immediate medical attention. They asked him to stay with them. He was trying to calm them down. He was talking to them and then he heard someone calling out for an IV bag. He jumped up to help to look for an IV bag. Then he found an Army LTCOL woman lying on the grass screaming. Lt Sell tried to remember how to use the IV bag (he had learned it in his training about 3 years prior), finally got it together and had the medical Captain check it. They got the IV flowing into the LTCOL and she stopped screaming. An EMT showed up and couldn't find a pulse and she came back and started screaming again. He started realizing that she was screaming about other people being in the building.

He went back to the triage site and asked if there was anything else he could do. He realized there were EMT's still running into the Fourth Corridor where these people had come from. There was one guy running in with a stretcher and LT Sell grabbed the end of the stretcher and run in with him. They ran into the Fourth Corridor, it was black, about six inches of water, cables hanging down. They ran out to the open breezeway between the B and C ring and that's where he found CDR Powell and other folks. There was brick and smoke everywhere, you could hardly see the sky. There were about 3 gaping holes in the wall with a line of debris coming from each hole. There were different groups of people at each hole and fire in each hole. There were people carrying fire extinguishers back and forth.

He walked up to one of the holes where CDR Powell was. He told him to take his top off (it was CNT, not cotton) and roll around in the water. People needed a wet t-shirt so he took off his t-shirt and gave it someone. At his feet was a black shirt so he put that on. A marine, LTCOL Kaiser, was telling people to back away from the entrance to the hole because they couldn't see. There was stuff falling down a chute by the hole. People were trying to get out of the way of the

chute. Someone said they were going to go into the hole in shifts because the fire extinguishers worked for about 20 seconds, then you had about 10 or 15 seconds to go in as far as the extinguisher would reach and try to find somebody. Then you would have to back out because the smoke and fire would come back. Lt Sell felt like he was next to go in but didn't know what he was going to look for or where to go. Someone came out and he took his or her hardhat and wet t-shirt for his face and he started into the hole. Someone said, "Get out, the roof's coming down". So they backed out of the hole. LTCOL Kaiser said, "That's it, we can't do anything else."

They went to the other holes in the wall and they seemed to be even worse. There were a lot of people going in and coming out. Some of the people coming out were being pulled out.

The firemen came then. There were body parts lying around. He saw what looked like the wheel of the plane.

Lt Sell stuck near CDR Powell and LTCOL Kaiser. They went to see if they could do anything else. People were trying to put out the fires on the piles of rubble with fire extinguishers. LTCOL Kaiser told them it was a waste of fire extinguishers since they had tried that and the fires just started back up.

They heard on a radio that another airplane was coming in headed for the Pentagon. LTCOL Kaiser told them to get everybody out of the courtyard and head out towards the street. They started to herd everyone out. They were running by the medical area and heard they had less than 2 minutes. CDR Powell asked a medical person running with them if she needed anything from medical brought out to the street. LT Sell and CDR Powell ran into medical to help get medical supplies. There were about 5 people in the clinic and a couch. They were going to ram the couch into the glass cabinet of supplies to get it opened. LT Sell and CDR Powell just grabbed the cabinet (it was on rollers) and rolled it down to the street. They ended up using this equipment to save at least one woman's life.

LTCOL Kaiser then told them the airplane didn't come and they wanted volunteers who felt they were in great shape to go back into the building in teams to look for survivors. LT Sell and CDR Powell stayed with LTCOL Kaiser. They went back into the center courtyard, designating triage sites, getting people divided into teams of 4 for stretcher teams. LT Sell helped post people at the entryways from the courtyard and set up a chain of command for the volunteers. LT Sell kept people out of the corridor unless LTCOL Kaiser authorized them to come in. This kept the people from being injured, as the debris was still falling, walls cracking and smoke seeping from the cracks. The FBI and Defense Protective Service were there collecting evidence.

When they did all they could they formed up stretcher teams again and planned to go around to the front, unaware that there were people there already doing what they had been doing. They went out front. LT Sell called the command in San Diego to give them a head count of SEALS he had seen. He called his parents and girlfriend and other phone calls that had come in on his cell phone over the past few hours.

A few days later they got into their old spaces and there was heavy smoke and water damage. The next office over the floors was almost totally gone. It's taken awhile to set the office back up. They relocated to Crystal City after about 1 week.

Since 11 September he has been concentrating more on terrorist issues in his job than the projects he worked prior to 11 September.

He was originally intending to get out of the Navy prior to 11 Sept because he wasn't happy with how far from operational tasks he had gotten while at the Pentagon. Since then he has decided to stay in. He will be going to Bahrain to be an Operations Officer.

Lessons Learned:

Make sure there is an evacuation plan that everyone knows and drills.

Send people from a command to an EMT course, make it a high priority.

Make people aware of dangers and how to be able to help out individually.

Put emergency radios next to fire extinguishers to improve communications. The various rescuers had no communication with each other.

Abstracted by:
Carol O'Hagan
9 NOV 01

A. Some of the things were continually—there's PC, Patrol Coastal, thirteen ships that are kind of up in the air. They belong to SOCOM and Naval Special Warfare and has been using them for engagement overseas. They use it, I know they use it down in SOUTHCOM for—I've never been down there myself, by the Drug and Addiction and also engagement in different countries along the coast, and the same in Africa. That was a big hit, when I was out in SOCEUR (phonetic) they did a lot of good work. You know a small ship like that can get into a port, small ports in Africa. It's something that they can count on more federal aide to then a big huge Navy ship. The Navy SEALs were working off those for a while. But there's been just with the cost, they were going to decommission them this year. Start with two this October and then have a cycle.

So we've been keeping up to date with that because they've offered them up to the Navy and then to the Coast Guard and it's been back and forth whether, who was going to take them, whether they were going up for foreign sales. So that was one of the issues.

Also one of my issues was P3 which stands for Premeditated Personnel Parachute drops for the entire Navy and there's just been a couple of instructions, large instructions. One dealing with the overall Navy policy and then one dealing with malfunctions, investigations and mishaps that we've been re-writing. So that's been an on-going thing in the last six months, as far as getting everybody's input and getting, figuring out, you know, what to do and trying to go back, and where people kind of went off the beaten path and started their own instructions, or different instructions that didn't comply with certain things. Trying to fix that and figure out the right way to do that without telling Admirals that their instructions are, you know, not right or something like that.

What else, those are the two biggest issues. There's always the budget, you know.

Q. (22:35) You're involved in the budget part of it.

A. I haven't, Chris Christensen and Grant Head were more involved with the actual budget process and stuff, but now I had to get more involved with them leaving and start to make up some of this stuff that I didn't really get a chance to learn.

It was real compartmentalized you know. One guy had, he took care of these two issues and I had these couple of issues and now I'm feeling the, you know, the negative aspects of that.

Q. (23:04) Where was your office located prior to September 11th.

A. The room number was 5C455. So it was actually, if you look through the corridors, the corridors go down, so it'd be 4th corridor and because the room number 455, it actually goes, 450 being, you know, even if there's no room for it, 450 being that corridor with the one through forty-nine on one side, room numbers and fifty through fifty-nine on the other side of the corridor. So we were right actually on the corner of 4th corridor and C ring, and -

Q. (23:46) Tell us about that day. Kind of walk us through your day of 11 September. Kind of, from the very start waking up on through the (unintelligible - 23:57)

A. OK, I don't remember anything significant from waking up or getting to work. It was probably the same. Wake up around 6:30 or so, Doing some reading, some devotions and praying, and not sure if I did it on that day. I sometimes, I miss quite a few days, but try to do that. Got to work probably right at eight o'clock, because I'm continually trying to get there early and usually get there right on time, or a couple of minutes late. Probably was just reading through message traffic. I think I actually, you know, went and got some coffee and some

hardboiled eggs, and a bagel. Anyway I'm sitting down, probably reading through messages and I was on the phone with someone. I don't remember who when Mark Pugh called out. This was about an hour later, maybe nine, or shortly after nine, that the World Trade Center had been hit, and I didn't really give that much thought, because, I don't know, no reason. It just seemed totally absurd, and I didn't know if he was talking on the phone or shouting it out. You know, saying it to the entire office there. We're in a small room maybe, you know, no bigger than this room here, and with just cubicles and four people.

That day we had CDR Powell there, myself, Mark Pugh and then he had two civilian visitors, and there was a CDR Atkins there from WARCUM. He deals with budget and I'm not even sure what his purpose there was, was there that day. He was just stopping in.

Then, so I finished my phone call. I'm trying to remember what it was about, but I can't. Then just that weekend was a reserve weekend before that and they had hooked up our TVs. So it's the first time in a year our TV had been hooked up in the office with Cable and everything, so the Reserves had done that for us. They left a little sticky saying. "Hey, we hooked up your TV." And I think that weekend I also have them going through, some of the AIROPS manuals trying to find the differences between the Army field manual instructions and the Navy instruction so we could start nailing down where to correct different things and so I got up and no one had turned on the TV, and you know, maybe five minutes had passed, and I got off the phone and there were still people milling about in our office. Mark Pugh was still on the phone. So I got up and turned on the TV and people came over and started to watch and that's when we saw the second plane. I don't remember if it was actual live or they were just playing back, but we saw that second plane and we were just standing there in awe of the whole thing, and talking about how it had to be terrorists and had to be, you know, a premeditated definitely planned out thing.

And I immediately went over and called my parents and told them to, then just left a message in their machine. They don't have, we don't even have TV at our house, so I told them to listen to the radio, turn on the radio. And then I hung up and then I called my girlfriend, who was in Georgia going through NCIS training, at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center down there, and left a message on her cell phone telling her what happened, and then got off the phone and just walked two steps, you know, from my cubicle, outside the cubicle so I could see the TV. We were watching again and no one had really said anything, leaving or, they were just kind of watching. You know, no one was really talking that much. Then my cell phone rang, twice or rang, rang once and I started to go pick it up and then immediately there was a huge explosion. You know, like an earthquake, but not slow like it. It was just very loud explosion like, you know, on the—I mean I've been, I've done, you know demo, and you wait in the bunkers and then the, you know, the thing, it sounded very similar to that except much louder, much bigger and the whole building just shook, really, really hard. So that's what it immediately made me think of, you know, C4, you know, some five hundred pound, you know, shot of C4, must have hit the, you know, I thought it was a bomb or something from outside of the building.

Q. (28:48) What is C4?

A. It's just, it's like TNT. It's explosives. Plastic explosives, and it's what we use, you know, it's just what it immediately made me think of. And when I ran out—well, immediately in the office everyone was kind of, you know, holding, just explanation of, "Holy cow!" Or whatever, you know, expletives. CDR Powell was one guy said, "Everybody out of the building." Just totally, you know, kind of very commanding, and just told everyone, "Get out of the building!" So we opened the door just immediately a couple of seconds here between the explosion and

leaving the room. Mark Pugh wanted to grab some stuff from his desk that I guess was very classified stuff from his brief case, that the two guys that were visiting, they were supposed to have some kind of a briefing. And CDR Powell basically shoved him out of the room and, “Just get out of the building. Don’t worry about it!” So we started running down the C corridor towards the center of the building, or towards the center courtyard. So, I think it was, I don’t remember making a decision which way to run. When we came out of the building everyone was moving in that direction and it just seemed—we don’t have any windows in our office, but it seemed if it was hit, it would be hit from the outside. So it just seemed the natural way to go. And everyone—but then there were these sliding doors that I didn’t even know were there, that were, it was like star wars, these sliding doors were closing off the hallways of the Pentagon. (chuckle) All these people were running, you know, trying to get through these sliding, I guess, smoke screen walls, before they closed.

Q. (30:43) This was part of the new wedge.

A. Right.

Q. Fire block?

A. Right, I couldn’t tell you know, I was just kind of jogging slow. I didn’t feel panic inside. I was just kind of, “OK, we need to get out of the building now.” I was just jogging, just kind of looking around, just trying to make sure that folks in the office were with me and see what was going on and listen for anybody that knew anything. It was almost like dream-like, you know. Just very weird.

I made it through the partition before it closed, but I couldn't tell if it was— it looked like something that might have been just a plastic that you could maybe push aside, or it was folding, or hard. I'm not sure. Then I started going down the escalator, and I remember there was so many people, I remember hearing CDR Powell's voice right behind me. So I should have paid better attention to staying together as a group, but when I got down to the second floor, I was only with about three of the guys that were in my office and I couldn't find CDR Powell, and everyone was leaving. There were people directing people to go outside, and I was on the second deck where you can go outside and go down the stairs, outside of the wall, open to the air, and then go into the center courtyard.

So I stood there for about thirty seconds, or waiting, looking at the escalator seeing if CDR Powell was coming behind me. I was with the civilians and they came with Mark Pugh, and then they wanted to go outside you know, immediately.

Another thing I was thinking, the whole time I was running down the C ring and getting to the escalator, I thought at any moment, you know, just thinking that everything seemed like it was in slow motion, and thought that any second there could be another huge explosion. So it's kind of like, you're running but you're waiting to just, you know, like there's—for something to happen. It was a very eerie feeling.

Q. Could you hear sounds? Could you hear?

A. Yes, there was the sirens from—and the lights were flashing, the new renovated alarm system, and this calm voice saying, "Please exit the building." (laugh)

Q. (33:02) (laugh)

A. You know, like the computerized voice and there were people crying. I remember a lot of the, just noticing it seemed like a lot of the secretaries were screaming or crying, but it seemed for the most part everybody was just very calm and just not really sure what had happened. There were a lot of people just help-, trying to help out, or stay in place and direct people where to go.

Q. (33:31) How much smoke was there?

A. I don't remember any smoke right away. There was no window in my office and then once you entered the C ring there's no windows in the C ring, and so until you get—So I actually had no view of the outside until, I had no view of the outside until I actually got to the center courtyard. But the folks that did have a, you know, a view of the outside even from the B ring and from the A ring said that they saw a huge fireball go up past their windows. So I didn't see that, and there was, at that point there was no smoke up on the fifth floor in that C ring.

Q. (34:30) I wonder if that fire block and smoke block helped that?

A. Yes, I don't know. I mean, it was, also it was within, I'd say you know, from the time of the explosion to the time I was all the way to the center park, going down the escalator it must have been twenty second.

Q. (34:48) All right, twenty seconds.

A. Twenty-five seconds, so it was pretty quick. So I don't know if the fire would have gotten up that far yet. It may be back in the E ring or something like that, F ring, or D ring, but I just don't remember if there was smoke. There might have been if I looked back toward the E ring, but –

Q. (35:11) So you're waiting on CDR Powell.

A. So I was waiting on CDR Powell down on second deck, right near the entrance to the outside, thinking, you know and my first instinct was, I mean a lot of things were going through my mind. I was thinking darn I left the keys in my car, in my rental car— I'd rented a car because my car was getting taken care of at a shop— in the office. So I was thinking how the heck am I, you know, the weird things you think about at the time. Darn!

But I had my cell phone, only because it was ringing and I was already reaching for it, and, and then the explosion hit me. I don't know if it went dead, or I just didn't hear it anymore or what, but, but that apparently was my girlfriend calling me back telling me what had happened in New York. She was watching TV, so she was pretty scared. She didn't hear from me until like two o'clock in the afternoon.

Let's see, so I was waiting, oh the things that were going through my mind was like, I forgot my keys. So it matters that I forgot my keys, because it was a rental car and I was going to get charged more. (chuckle.) And then I was thinking well you know, if it was a bomb, it's you know the Pentagon's pretty, you know, a lot of, seemed like a secure place to me, and I don't know if going out with the thousands of people into a center, you know, it seemed like a bull's eye to me. You know, going outside with this mass of people that have no idea what's going on. And I remember asking the civilian guy, "Do you think we should go outside, because I don't think we should go outside?"

Q. (36:44) You were in the courtyard is that right?

A. Well, I'm inside pointing out at the courtyard.

Q. OK

A. There's an access to the courtyard from the second floor, there's outside stairs. So I don't think outside's the best place to be right now.

Q. (36:58) This is the Defense Protective Service guy you're talking with?

A. Well, it's the civilian guys that were in the office with Mark Pugh from Dahlgren.

Q. Oh, oh, Dahlgren.

A. And they were like, "Well I'm --" and they were out of there. I say nope, you know.

Q. (37:10) Why were people doing that, because the explosion obviously happened from the outside. I mean, is that just the normal progression of people, or was somebody saying, "go down here, and go out to the courtyard"?

A. Yes, there were people, they were actually, CDR Powell remembers it being Marines. I just remember people saying, you know, "Everybody outside in the courtyard."

Q. So they were, so you were being directed to the courtyard.

A. Yes, but I don't remember who it was or you know anything. CDR Powell said it was, he remembers Marines just posting themselves and trying to keep the people calm, and he was real impressed by that. But I don't remember that particularly.

And when you came out, you know, no one knew what was going on so it seemed like, there was really no confusion about where to go. So you just kind of went with the people that were --

Q. (38:00) Yes, that's what I was wondering, was just following the –

A. I mean it wasn't, there was no people –

Q. Flow.

A. Standing around saying what happened? Which way do we go? You know, I don't know if it was either the people coming from the E ring that knew for sure.

Q. (38:09) Right.

A. That were saying, "Go this way," you know. I might have been, but when you see somebody you don't know if there from the E ring, or from the B ring, but everyone was, you know, saying to head out to the courtyard, or to leave the building, and everyone was going in that direction. So there was no question except when I finally got to the entrance, I'm like, thinking about my car. Thinking about, you know that, you know I could at any step I could, you know another explosion could happen, and I could be in it. I'm thinking about whether or not to go out to the courtyard or not. And then I thought, Oh well, I'll just go out and look. Maybe he's already outside. I'll go out and look for him there. So I went out to the courtyard. Ran into CDR Atkins and, and then that's when we saw all the smoke, right from the, right from where we just left. All the black smoke coming up in the air, and I don't remember at what point I found out that it was a plane, but I still, I smelled, what I smelled was, I guess jet fuel. But to me, I already had the explosives in my mind and to me it's—I was thinking, well that smells just like, you know, C4, or TNT or explosives. So I thought it was a bomb still.

Then CDR Atkins said, "Hey, you know, you should –," kind of brought me back to my senses, because I was sitting there staring at the smoke and that, and he said, "Hey you should find

your,” you know, “go find your people and check in with them,” and like that. OK. So I looked around and found some other people from the A ring. Most of our offices—we’re the only four people that were in the C ring. The rest of our office is in A ring, and that was like fifty other folks from N75. So I found about six or seven folks standing around in the grass from them, and I ran up to them and said, “Everyone in our office got out.” You now, I asked them if they’d see CDR Powell and then I said, “If anybody’s looking for me,” you know, I’m tell them that I’m OK, but I’m going to look for CDR Powell.

So I check in with them. Then there were people calling for corpsmen, right at the entrance to the exit of the corridor 4, I ran back over there, and then saw one guy I knew from down in Norfolk. He was kind of organizing efforts and trying to make, you know, immediate, you know, area here, or victims that were just kind of in shock over here, and he was helping people direct them where to go. Then there were started people showing up with the MP guys. Some people I think from medical showing in ones and twos maybe. So then they were shouting for corpsmen and I remember seeing this one guy. He’s totally burnt you know, head to toe. Clothes all shredded off his, you know, with kind of burnt ends to all his clothing, and just kind of walking out like, you know, Frankenstein, from the bottom floor of the 4th Cor—C ring, no not C ring, 4th corridor to the courtyard, and people were helping him.

Q. (41:26) Civilians?

A. Civilians, and you know, and immediately I felt like almost mad that I didn’t feel more confident in first aid, and like I should be doing something, but I’m not really sure what to do and so I ran off and grabbed two Petty Officers and said, “Hey,” because there were just a lot of people just standing around. It just, it was weird because there were so much chaos over here

right outside 4th corridor, but then there were groups of like— but there were a lot of people just leaving the area and just going home. I don't know where they were going, but then there were just a lot of people I think, probably just trying to get to their offices and get a head count. But, and then possibly, people telling them, "Well don't go anywhere until you get a full head count." So from my eyes, it just seemed like there were a lot of people, you know a group of twenty people standing here. Just talking to each other. A group of thirty people over here talking to each other. And, but then there were people screaming for corpsmen over here, and so I grabbed these two Petty Officers. I'm "Look go around to all these people and ask them for people with medical, doctors, corpsmen. Do it now."

They like, you know, "Yes, sir." So they ran off and then I ran back to the site and then asked, and told them I was a SEAL, had some training, but I'm not EMT qualed, and you know I wish I, I had signed up for that course in Monterey and I was just sitting there hating myself for not having done it, because, you know, so overloaded with courses and stuff like that. Doing extra stuff, but that was just one of the things that I ended up cutting off my schedule, that I'd gone to only two classes and then couldn't do it anymore.

But anyway, definitely, I'm sure, even though I kind of cut myself short, I was harder on myself. I'm sure I had, you know, a lot more training than most of the guys, just from the Botan (phonetic) combat medicine training and stuff like that. So I went and told him and he said, "Hey stay with these people and just, you know, monitor them and make sure they're OK. So there was about four or five folks sitting on this bench just different states. Some clothes ripped. Some scratches, you know, wet from the water or, you know, just looked pretty bad but not, not in any kind—they didn't really need any immediate medical attention, so I was just talking to them. You know, saying, "Hey," trying to calm them down, because they were, you know, different

folks were crying, screaming or you know, heaving and trying to catch their breathe, or I think, maybe it was like three civilians and one Army Lieutenant Colonel and then he asked if I could, to borrow my cell phone. I—there was no signal though and he tried and this lady tried also. And then, and so I was just kind of kneeling in front of this bench talking to these ladies, asking them their name, you know. And you know, if they knew anybody else that was stuck in there, or where they were or—I didn't really actually to be honest with you know what they'd say. I was just trying to talk to them and ask them how their feeling was, and if you have a pain anywhere and things like that. Just trying to find out stuff about, and then just look at them and see if there was any blood or anything like that.

So and then I heard someone, I don't remember was, an O-6, I can't remember what service, but was calling out for an IV bag, you know, if anybody had an IV bag, and then I jumped up because I thought, "OK, here's something I can do. I've done this before." And so I was helping look around for an IV bag and then went across the, to another patch of grass and there was this Army black woman Lieutenant Colonel, laying in the grass just screaming, in kind of like the fetal position. Just screaming at the top of her lungs, and not really saying anything, just you know screaming and rocking back and forth.

And so, you know, he said, "Here, get this ready." So I was trying to get the IV bag ready and then I was just so pissed again at myself, because here I am you know thinking, "OK, I know how to do this," and I'm looking at this bag and I'm going, "Come on. Remember, remember how to," you know, "remember what to do." And, you know, I couldn't, I mean I probably could have figured it out, but I was just mad that it just didn't come naturally, because it had been about three years since, you know, and that was just, you know, one week of our training and you did it a couple of times. It's like OK, we've got to move on to the next thing. Combat diving,

or jumping, or whatever and everything is so jammed packed. Trying to be a master of so many different things in a one-year training cycle there, you know.

So I'm sitting there going, "Damn it!" I can't you know, and so I got, I finally got it together, get the Captain. I said, "Hey, make sure that I got it set up right." And the, you know he checked it and we put it in here and I was holding it up and adjusting the –

Q. (47:03) Is this the Lieutenant Colonel that you administered to?

A. Yes, yes, and then I adjusted the, adjusting the speed of the fluid going in. And then she, she just stopped screaming and it almost seemed like she lost consciousness, and then there was an EMT that showed up and, and was doing her pulse, and he started—it just seemed like everyone was panicking. And he said, "There's no pulse! There's no pulse!" And then, but then she, you know, he started rubbing her chest kind of like that and then she came back sort of screaming again. So I don't, you know, if she just took a break, or, or what, but I'd never seen, you know, that either. I never seen anybody do that.

So he may have just not felt the pulse, felt the pulse right, or something, but, so then I was with her for about another minute, and holding this IV bag, and kind of looking around at what was going on. And there were other people, you know, monitoring her pulse, and, and talking to her and trying to get her calmed down, and she was, she started—I started realizing that she was screaming about other people in there. There were other people that were in there, and just crying about that. So then, then I remember that original guy—there was just a lot of different word being passed around.

There was one lady, I think from medical that was trying to run that whole triage site, but then there was other people coming up saying, "Hey, the general said to do this." And she was getting

mad, you know. "I'm in charge of this site," you know, and people coming up trying to get that guy who was totally burned at first, the civilian. They put him on one of those carts that were like you see the maintenance guys driving around. They were going to drive him to medical, and for some reason, she, I'm not sure, you know what the reason, but she felt like she needed to maintain that site, keep everybody there and monitor everybody.

This one guy was driving, you know, the worse victim I guess that she had, driving him away and then she screamed at him to come back and leave him here. So here's this guy, totally, you know, in pain and burnt up, getting transferred from the ground to this car, then back from the car to the ground, and then, you know, before he got transferred back to the ground, the guy on the cart got off the cart. Stopped the cart. Left him there. Went to argue with the medical lady, and then he's standing there in the sun and he just starts yelling, somebody get me out of the sun. So then somebody else jumped on the cart and drove him back to the grass area and laid him down and, like he seemed very like aware. You know, it was just like, he was just kind of, you know, clothes hanging off him and, and burnt and like where the skin gets wet, and but he was the worst that I had seen.

Q. (50:13) Do you know if he made it?

A. I'm sure, I wouldn't doubt that he did. I'm sure that he did. But I don't know. I don't know his name or anything. And then, so I was standing there holding this IV bag, and then I just felt pretty, like I wasn't doing anything. I felt like I needed to do more. So I saw somebody standing near by was just kind of like looking off, an on-looker, and I said, "Here, hold this." Then I went back to the triage site and asked the lady if there was anything else I could do. Then she was pre-occupied with, you know, this guy and trying to get this triage site organized, and they

were—then I realized that, you know there were still, there was EMTs still running back into the 4th corridor where these people had come out from, and I think that there were guys there keeping people from going in there unless you had an EMT bus, with a stretcher. So I was just in khakis, so there was one guy running in with a stretcher so I grabbed the back of the stretcher and just ran in with him, behind him and nobody said anything to me. He didn't even know I was behind him. I was just holding the stretcher running in.

So we went in at the bottom floor of the 4th corridor there and it was all blackened out. There was no lights or anything and it was about six inches of water and all kinds of stuff on the ground, and you know, things from the ceiling and tables and stuff hanging down, and bricks and whatnot.

So ran, and what I thought was actually between the A and the B ring there's an opening in between each ring was between, was actually between the B and the C ring. So I think in my article I wrote A and B, but it was actually between B and C. And so, so I ran out there and then when I got in I said, "Hey, you know, I'm with you, all right." I think I told the guy, the EMT I was "running right behind you," or something. It was pretty slippery running with the water on the deck and then I ran out to the open breezeway in between the B and the C ring, and that's where I found CDR Powell and a bunch of other folks.

There was brick everywhere, and smoke. You could hardly see the sky and I don't know if you can picture where that is or not. Actually that shipmate done a pretty good picture of the Pentagon.

So I was in corridor 4, then to the right. There were about three gaping holes in the wall. Probably about ten foot diameter to fifteen foot diameter. And from those holes there was just a line of debris and all kinds of stuff from clothes to bricks to metal pieces that weren't really

recognizable from each hole, and there was about six, eight inches of water on the deck. There were different groups of people at each hole, and there was fire inside these holes in the wall and you couldn't really see past what was inside of them. It was just kind of beams or just black, blackness and fire from inside. There were a bunch of people. It was just like kind of entering another world, you know. You'd come outside from this blackened out, you know first floor corridor and there's all kinds of people, you know, carrying fire extinguishers back and forth. Yelling for wet t-shirts, "Anybody got any wet t-shirts?" You know, calling out to watch out for, you know people yelling for people to watch out for the glass in the different floors. You know, watch out for that if it blows out. You know, the glass is going to blow you know, and there was stuff falling from the building, from the windows that had already, I guess—I'm not sure where the stuff was fallen from, but there was some things falling, and just all kinds of stuff going on and then I walked up to one of the holes, or where CDR Powell was and then he recognized me and told, immediately told me—I was in the CNTs, not the cotton khakis, and he said, "Take that top off and roll around in the water." So I did that, and I just really, I the whole time, I mean even after this, I admired his, you know, just (speaker snaps fingers) telling people what to do. He was in civilian clothes because he hadn't changed yet for the day and he had his backpack and stuff. You know, even in his backpack, I think he had a flashlight, and it was just like, he was like credit for the day, you know.

Q. (55:28) (chuckles) Whatever.

A. So, yes. So I rolled around in this water and then I'm at the entrance to this hole and then I saw another guy I knew, LTC Kaiser, who was Major Kaiser out at SOCEUR (phonetic). He was the OPS officer that I worked for out there, and I knew he had just gotten to the Pentagon a few

months before that. Great guy, and we had done a lot of stuff together out in Germany. He was still (laugh) he still had his complete, you know, Marine Corps tuck. He's standing there just telling people, you know, to watch out for different things and there were people in the hole, and CDR Powell said I had gotten there, and I was there before and they had started pulling people out, and he said they had got, he told me that they got, when I was standing there, they got about four or five people out from that hole. I may have been intent on either getting my shirt off, rolling around in the water and asking people what was going on, or which one of these holes I could help out with. Also someone else, "Hey, I need a wet t-shirt," you know. "I need to borrow, has anybody got a t-shirt?" So I took off my t-shirt, too, so now I'm standing there with no shirt on in front of this hole with stuff fall, glass falling and then fire in this hole. So now I'm thinking, "OK" —and then they're taking people in this hole to get people out, I'm thinking, "OK, I'm ready to go, and I'm not doing too well here without-." I just felt pretty unprotected and then right at my feet there was this black, black shirt, just drifting in the water. So I didn't know what that was from, or whose it—I still have it. It was like a polo shirt. So I put that on. I put it on backwards. So now I was like styling (chuckle) with the polo shirt. So I was ready to go in this hole and get people out and it was kind of like there were so many people there. What seemed like, you know, hole like fifteen foot diameter, but you have five, six people at the entry way, just want to get in there and help, but you don't want to get in anybody's way either, or push them into the fire. So you're standing there ready to go and then LTC Kaiser was yelling out, "Ok, we're going to, " you know, he sounded pretty upset. He's like "Back away from the entrance, because we can't see and we can't breath, you know, "in the hole."

So you know I was on the side, but I was like next to go in, standing right behind CDR Powell and, and there was like a chute right there and so stuff was falling down the chute and I don't

know if that was like, what that was for. If it was a vent, or if it was like some kind of garbage chute or something like that, but so there were people like trying to get out of the way of this chute. Standing on the sides of this hole, and I couldn't really see very far because I was right behind CDR Powell, or somebody, and then somebody was calling out, "OK, we're going to go in in shifts, because," and then there were people bringing fire extinguishers and I guess the extinguishers worked for about twenty seconds. You emptied them and then you had about maybe ten, fifteen seconds to go in as far as the extinguisher could reach and maybe try and find somebody, or—but then you'd have to back out, because the smoke would, I mean the fire would come back.

So people were bringing just loads of, there were extinguishers everywhere, and brick and rubble, and stuff.

You know, people would ask you know, "Is this one used? Is this not used." And then someone started dividing them up and then—so I was like, I felt like I was next to go in, and I was ready to go in, but I didn't really know where I was going to go, or what I was going to look for. Then there were guys coming out, so one guy that came out, I asked him, "Hey, let me have your t-shirt and your hardhat." He had a hardhat and a t-shirt he was breathing from. So he gave me those. Just kind of looking at me like, "Who are you?" So then I put on the hardhat and a t-shirt around my face and I was ready to go. I mean I started to go in.

I keep saying CDR Powell, because I remember his, you know, seeing him at different times, but I'm not, you know I don't remember who I was next to or who I was with going in. Then I remember somebody saying, "Get out the roof's coming down!" You know. So then we started to back out of the hole and there were people from behind pulling us back.

So then Kaiser or some other folks, maybe Powell, I can't remember, but were saying, "That's it!" "That's it!" "We can't," you know, "There's nothing else." They pretty much said that's it, there's no one else going in this hole.

So we went to the other holes in the walls to see and it seemed like the other ones were just worse than this one we were working at. So I don't physically, I don't remember like pulling anybody out. I don't remember any survivors really coming out. There were a lot of people going in and a lot of people coming out, and Powell said I was there when they pulled about four people out at the entrance, but I don't remember, you know, who was—I don't remember that. So then we were standing around there for a while and it all kind of gets a little fuzzy from here, because I don't remember if the fire department arrived at this point, or if they were just more medical folks.

We were looking around at different holes and there was rubble. I remember someone pointing out some body parts. There was a foot. You know, someone said, "Hey, did you see the foot?" And so, you know, went and looked at that, and there was like just all kinds of stuff on the floor from cell phones to wallets to, you know, suitcases, and there was a, there was the wheel of the, what looked like the wheel of the plane there.

Q. (01:01:49) Where was this in there?

A. It was between the B and the C ring. So it had probably come from those three holes in the wall from the C ring, but got as far the B ring and nothing penetrated the B ring wall. So there's all this rubble and stuff that had been blown out probably from the explosion. Just blown out from the ceiling. There was someone said, "Hey, that's a fuselage there." You know, different people pointing out stuff. And then we ran, we were—I kind of stuck next to Kaiser and Powell.

They were pretty much, seemed to be running, running things or telling folks, you know, what to do.

We went back out to the courtyard and kind of went back in to see if there was anything more we could do. A lot of the rubble was on fire and there was some folks trying to put just the piles of rubble out with fire extinguishers and then Kaiser was telling, you know, we'd already done that and all it did was create a lot of smoke, because it was like asbestos and different things that were burning. So it just lit back up, you know and just wasting the fire extinguishers.

Certain people like cleared some of the rubble away so they could drive those carts up and down the breezeway, but somewhere along the line, pretty soon, right after we backed out of that hole there was—someone had a radio or something. I don't know if it was the fire department guys or what, but that there was another airplane coming in, and there were airplanes unaccounted for and this next one was heading straight for the Pentagon. So we—Kaiser's the one that got that word from somebody and he said, "You've got five minutes. Get everybody out of the courtyard." People were just standing around just staring at him. So (chuckle) he started cussing and telling them, you know, "I'm not kidding around. Everybody get out of the courtyard and head towards 8th corridor, you know, out to the street right now."

So Powell and I, and Kaiser were kind of like the last people out. Getting people going and herding them out, and as we were running down 8th quarter, you know, through the courtyard, out 8th corridor towards the POAC area. I don't know if you know where that is. There's a medical facility there, and we were running with one of the, one of the ladies from medical was running with us, and the word went out OK, "You've got less than two minutes," you know. And Powell says, "Hey, you needed anything from—to be pulled out of medical to the street?"

And she's like, "Yeah, good idea." So then me and CDR Powell ran in there and I'm thinking, "We've got one minute," (chuckle) this plane hits, you know, oh well, I know, whatever happens. So we ran in there and there were a lot of people. There was about five different officers in there.

Q. (01:04:48) In the clinic?

A. In the clinic. We ran down and all the way down to the, down a couple of ramps. I don't know if your familiar with that. All the way into like the back area in the clinic, and there were about four or five folks. I remember in particular a couple of Air Force guys and maybe an Army guy and maybe two, two of the workers there.

There was this huge glass cabinet of all, you know, first aid stuff, and they had a couch. "Stand back! Stand back!" And they were going to ram the couch into this glass cabinet to break it open because it was locked. I don't even know if it was locked. It seems silly. I don't think it was locked. Well it must have been. But anyway, they were going to, they couldn't roll it. I guess they had attempted to roll it and they didn't think it had rollers on it, but it did, and so they were just going to grab all the stuff and carry as much as they could. And they had this couch ramming this glass cabinet, and me and CDR Powell looked at each other, and we just grabbed this cabinet and we just started pulling it, and everyone just kind of looking at us. It had rollers, so we just started rolling it out. We like "Stand back! Stand back!"

Q. (Chuckle)

A. So we rolled this huge cabinet out and all the way out down the ramps and out past POAC, down to the street. Apparently they had used that stuff for one of the ladies that was going to get

emergency care, or something. Powell said they used the, kind of know what it was in there, respirator or something. He said saved her life or something, not sure.

So when we brought that out they're like, "Oh," you know, "great." And they got that stuff and then asked for someone, a volunteer to grab their car and take this girl to the ambulance. He said it was the same, we were talking about this afterwards. He caught this Lieutenant, black LTC from the second story window, which is the same one I had work on, or helped with the IV out in the courtyard.

Q. (01:006:56) It was the same one?

A. Yes, which was the same one that got rushed off to the hospital. I think, recently. So we were all kind of congregated out there in the grass on the other side, and CDR Powell and I went up to the lady who was in charge of the triage site earlier and she was reporting to, I think a three-star Air Force General, was the Surgeon General in the Pentagon or something. And so we went up to her and said, basically, offered her help and told her— CDR Powell was doing all the talking—he said, "We're SEALs. If you need us, but we want to stay out of your way. We're going to be over here."

She said, "Fine."

I mean Kaiser, Col Kaiser got everybody together and basically told them, "If you feel as though," you know, "you're in great shape, we're going to—the airplane that was said to come, didn't come in—we're going to go back in and form teams and help the fire department in case they come across anymore survivors. If you feel as though you're in great shape, stand over here. If not then go over here."

Then he formed all those people up into teams of I don't know how many, maybe twenty and got EMTs for each team. Divided everybody out and then, but then he wanted me and Commander Powell to stay with him, and so it was pretty cool action. Then he talked to the Air Force General. Told him what he was doing, and he got everybody's name on a list and then we all went back in. Got t-shirts, wet, you know, t-shirts from all the different folks that weren't going in and flashlights from anybody that had them, and went back into the center courtyard. Started, you know, designated triage site again. Got, you know, some of the enlisted folks to get everybody's name from each team, and each team had a name and divide them up into teams of four. You know, so like stretcher teams, basically, and I was in one of these stretcher teams, mainly because I wasn't sure, if you know, what COL Kaiser and CDR Powell wanted from me. And then, and then they went back in between the B and C ring and I stayed with the teams that were just standing by waiting to help out. Then when they came out I went up to them and they said, they said, "had known," you know, "we need you." I 'd much rather have been, you know with them kind of organizing things and not just waiting in the courtyard.

So I got with them. I went and told my team that I'm going to go with Col Kaiser, and then I just started doing tasks for him, like getting a person with a DPS or an enlisted guy, one of the Master Sergeants or something. Some of the guys were helping out just at each entry way to the corridors, so that no one went in to try and help out or anything without them knowing it; getting your name down, unless, you know, COL Kaiser said it was all right.

So all the teams were in the courtyard. What else we'd do. We got everybody's name on lists, and basically kind of set up a tent command for everybody out there, and different team leaders and stuff.

So then I went with Kaiser and, COL Kaiser and CDR Powell back into between the B and C ring where the fire department was and talked to the Fire Chief and said basically, “We’ve got all these people here to help out and we’ll be the go between.: So no one was supposed to come in and help unless they saw me come out there and grab the teams and go. And everybody knew that.

So we pretty much stayed in between the B and C ring where we were originally, in that breeze way. And the fire department had all kinds of trouble. They were—I guess the word was they couldn’t get trucks into that side first. Then the hoses weren’t long enough. Then they did get hoses, but then the water pressure wasn’t enough in the building. So it was a while before they actually—

Q. (01:11:10) What time was this about, do you know?

A. That’s hard. I think it was around noon, because I remember looking at my watch now, after we were outside and then came back in. I think it was the first time I looked at my watch. It was in, you know 11:30, 12:00, 1:00. Twelve-something, and I remember thinking. “Wow.” You know, it seemed like it was only a half-hour at last.

Q. (01:11:36) Yes.

A. And all a sudden, it’s twelve o’clock, and then I remembered thinking, “Man,” you know, I didn’t expect to have any survivors after that much time and the fire department guys were, you know, all suited up and they just seemed exhausted. They’d come out to the courtyard and just flop down and take off their masks and sit there and there were people, you know, bringing cartons of water and cartons of sodas and then it was just kind of waiting, you know. So all the

teams were in corridor just waiting and there were people doing as much as they could. There was a Sgt Maj Tony Rose who's really kind of going between the courtyard and us in the breezeway with the fire department and bringing water to who ever needed it and getting everything going, at least from the courtyard side. We would just tell them, "Hey, go get this done," or that done. Go see about more radios or go see about more flashlights, and he'd go do it and come back in about a half hour with flashlights and radios or the masks, the little face masks or whatever.

But at that point, we were just, I mean I felt—I don't know. It was weird. I felt almost privileged to be in there with Col Kaiser, because he was running things, and I felt like I was doing something by just being there, but there really wasn't much to do. And really we weren't doing that much, but we were keeping, you know, a lot of the people that wanted to come in and help away, because some of the glass windows were blowing out, and even, you know, the brick in the walls of the Pentagon was cracked and there was smoke coming out of the cracks in the wall. So it's kind of scary, because you're standing there thinking this wall could just come down at anytime.

Q. (01:13:30) How afraid were you through all this? What was keeping you going?

A. I think mainly the thing that was keeping me going was, well it was a drive to—it was a couple of things, a drive to just want to do something, and to help out. It was thinking of, you know, people that were either stuck or trapped and maybe someone, you know, was still in a room where just maybe the door had bowed and couldn't get out, or something like that.

Also, just feeling really kind of, just that you know CDR Powell and COL Kaiser were totally running things and I'd worked with them before, and almost like, I'll stick close to these guys

and everything's going to be good, going to be all right, you know. And also I didn't see any fear in them at all. I remember one time I was kind of embarrassed because in the breezeway, there was this, the fire was getting so intense that sometimes like you couldn't even see, you couldn't see the sky at all, and you couldn't see maybe thirty yards down the, that area. And it's pretty wide. It's like thirty yards wide, and you couldn't even see thirty yards down the breezeway. You'd have to, you know, you could barely make out, maybe shapes of the fire department guys. And then all the smoke coming out of the brick wall, and there were a lot of people coming in from like agents taking pictures of the wreckage and taking pieces of, you know, feet or different things and putting them in bags and all this evidence, and taking wallets and, so I was going around with them pointing out stuff. But I was also trying to keep people out that maybe didn't need to be there. That were just sitting there, you know, standing around looking, 'cause some of the people you couldn't tell who they were, you know. Some of them had an agent vest on, and some of them were just with a camera. I didn't really know who they were with. That was one of the things Kaiser told me to do is just keep everybody back because of the walls and windows.

Q. (01:16:04) Did people listen? I mean, you're in a black shirt, and pants.

A. Yes, I'm in this polo shirt and, so people listened, but I mean at the same—you know I was also trying to, you know if they needed to take their evidence and stuff, well, that's what they needed to do so. But there was one part where everyone was kind of grouped around and I was telling them, "You need to get your stuff out of here, because these wall," the walls actually looked like they were bowing. And they were, you know, if you looked at them from the side,

they were cracked and you could see that it was bowing just a little bit, maybe it was like that, I don't think it was like that normally, but it seemed that way.

So we told them, they had all their evi—you know, like almost a table that was actually just some, I don't know, some stuff that was stored up there. Maybe some boxes with plastic over it, but they had, you know, all these different things laid out on, paperwork and stuff. I was telling them you've got to move this stuff to the overpass, which is, like there's a breezeway, but the corridors are all kind of, you can get under. I don't know if you know what I'm talking about.

Q. (01:17:17) Uh huh.

A. There's a breezeway, but each time there's a corridor there's an overpass.

Q. Right.

A. On the first floor, you can go underneath, so we told them all to get their stuff underneath there in case something falls in, because there's huge pillars there. So I got them all to move that stuff and it was right at that point, and I was kind of standing there while they were moving their stuff. Then I heard a big crack and Kaiser was standing there, too. And there was one guy kneeling down getting some stuff. So it was just, the only people that were left were me, (chuckle) COL Kaiser and this oriental guy. He was bending down to pick up some, a case or something, or camera or something that he had there, and I heard this big crack, and I was like, I jumped to get under the overpass ring, because I thought, you know, "Well, that's it. The walls are coming down."

I was like—and I turned around and looked and then (chuckle) COL Kaiser was standing there with his arms crossed in between the wall and this guy picking up the stuff, and I remember him looking at me and I kind of felt a little ashamed.

Q. (01:18:28) (chuckle).

A. ‘Cause the wall didn’t come down and the windows, you know, so I thought, “Man, “ you know, “here I am a SEAL and,” you know, “all jumpy and everything. “

So anyway, but I just had a lot of respect for those guys, because it was pretty, you know, I don’t know it was pretty, I don’t know, jumpy environment. It was pretty—there was a lot of things I guess that could of happened, and it was just a weird day, and it worked.

So I’ve got all my—I didn’t include the, the stories in the article that, you know, the things that I didn’t, that I wish I could have done better, or the things I look back on and think now I was kind of embarrassed at that point. I didn’t put that stuff in the article, so now it’s on tape. So I’m a real person, I guess.

Q. (01:19:29) (laugh)

A. What else?

Q. How long, when did you finally secure?

A. Ok, we were there and kind of waiting for the fire department. There were different times when the fire department, when the firemen were going to try one avenue of approach coming from the corridor 5 and going the other way and then I guess they were in communications with the folks on the outside and at one point they stopped because, you know, I don’t know how the

fires work, but they were saying that it would be better—what their plan was, the guys from the outside were thinking of working, you know towards the inside. And then they started again and tried to come in through the hole and work from the center out. I guess they were trying a lot of different ways, but they really, they couldn't get in pass the second floor. And then the fire ended up just being too hot, that it was pushing them out. And they couldn't get in whichever way they went. So at around three thirty they stopped. At least on the inside crew. They just said, you know, they quit, and at that point, you know, COL Kaiser—we went out to the courtyard and told folks to head out and then we formed a smaller team of people and, you know, still fully intent. Thinking that there were still things that we could do.

So we formed a smaller team with stretchers and I think even body bags. Someone had done, the Army, but were going to go around in front and help, but we didn't know that there were already, you know, a thousand people out front waiting to help and we hadn't even see the front yet.

So we formed up that and then we exited. We had to exit through I think the River entrance or, I can't remember exactly. I think we went out the River entrance which is what? Corridor 7, or something like that. I'm not sure.

Anyway we went around somehow through that parking lot and then around the, the back side.

We might have gone into corridor 8, can't remember. But anyway we ended up out front and that was around 3:30. Then we waited out front until about five or five-thirty, and it was at that point that I started making phone calls. I had about twenty messages on my cell phone and trying to call our command first out of WARCOM in San Diego and give them a head count, because we had seen different SEALs. Basically calling and tell them which SEALs we had seen driving around. One of them being CDR Stratton, and we'd seen him throughout the day driving one of those carts.

I joked with him later, I thought it was kind of funny because I always just saw him driving a cart by and I kept thinking, “Well there goes CDR Stratton.” He’d drive by again, and but I guess he was, he was hauling fire extinguishers back and forth to the ring and then go back and get more, and so we left the center courtyard and went out to the outside with our team. I don’t know who we talked to or whatever, but we got past all the tape, and the things that were blocked off and we got into the grass section right off the helo pads, and you know, we’re waiting there to do something, but there was, again, not much to do. And just standing there looking at—you know, I expected to see parts of a plane, but you really we didn’t, didn’t see anything.

And you know there was all these tents set up for injured people and there was nobody in them. So it was kind of, you know sad, and kind of weird that there were, even on the inside courtyard there were very few, you know, folks that were really hurt except for that one guy that I saw and the other people I just—it mainly seemed like they were more in shock, and bruised up and maybe eardrums blown or smoke damage, inhalation and stuff like that. But didn’t see too much like blood and guts or anything and the only body parts, I saw two feet and that was it. So that wasn’t really something, you know, that I had dreams about or anything. It—they almost looked like props in a movie, you know, or something. So I imagine it would have been different if I saw somebody’s face or something like that.

Q. (01:24:16) Did you know anybody personally who was injured or -?

A. I didn’t, I didn’t know anybody personally. So, my dealings with people in the Pentagon, my division really, or people I called outside of the Pentagon, whether it was San Diego or down SOCOM, or NAVSEA over at Crystal City, a lot of folks I dealt with outside of the Pentagon, but not too many offices within.

So we waited around until about five o'clock. Also from about twelve o'clock on while I was in the ring, I had put my cell phone—and initially when I had first gotten to the scene I had taken my top off and my cell phone and put it in CDR Powell's backpack, right there at the hole. And then it was later when we came back in later to help I got my cell phone out. Was trying, I couldn't call out, but I got a couple of phone calls to me from one guy I only met one time out in Monterey. And then, and then another girl that was down in Norfolk and I had asked her to call my parents and also [REDACTED], my girlfriend down –

Q. (01:25:39) [REDACTED]'s your girlfriend?

A. Yes, down in Georgia. [REDACTED]. And so apparently they couldn't get through to New York, but they got through to her and then she ended up calling my parents later on. So but no one actually had gotten any word, I guess until about one or two, that I was, you know, doing all right and stuff.

So I started answering all these phone calls between three-thirty and five, and then got a ride back home from CDR Stratton. CDR Powell and I both got a ride from CDR Stratton.

Q. (01:26:21) In the Colonel's cart?

A. Yes, in his car?

Q. No, the cart.

A. What's that?

Q. Oh, the cart he was driving. (laugh)

A. Yes, well my rental car was still in the parking lot and -.

Q. (01:26:28) Did you ever get the keys back?

A. I had to go get an extra set, and they had to go get them made, because they didn't have an extra set of keys.

Q. (01:26:34) Did they charge you extra?

A. No, actually they didn't, which was cool. So got home and apparently all my roommates had been—I live with five other guys and so they had taken, borrowed my mountain bike. They didn't know if I needed it anymore or not.

Q. (01:26:52) (laugh)

A. They borrowed my—because we live like five minutes away, and they thought well they could help out. So they got on, two of them got on their bikes, or one on my bike and one on this other guys bike and rode down to the annex here to try to get in, but everything was blocked off so –

Q. (01:27:09) Are any of them in the Navy.

A. No, I'm the only one. It's kind of a very diverse house, household. It's pretty neat because I think that I've instilled some patriotism in the house a little bit and at some of our parties they made announcements to the group of people there that—our first party that we had with this jazz thing fund raiser was that Friday right after the attack.

Q. (01:27:39) Oh, right, wow.

A. So it was a big thing like, shall we have a party or not? We thought that it would be a good thing for people to do.

Q. (01:27:50) Oh, it had been previously scheduled.

A. Yes, previously schedule for that day. Everyone wanted to know if the party's going to happen or not. So it was really actually really good, because we got to share a lot of stuff, experiences and they had brought fifty or sixty people there, and I think it was, you know, I think it was good for everybody to do that and be able to you know, give to something and also to hear my story and then hear my roommates stories how they were, you know, what was going through their mind. You know, how they were looking for me and, and it was actually pretty flattering, because I didn't expect that. For them to get up and say, you know, how much me living in the house had, you know, made them more familiar with military and our country and stuff like that. So that was really cool. And they had a big American flag up and I talked about, a little bit about our founding fathers, and read Psalm 46, which was the Psalm that the Congress and Senate had read the day before, I guess, in a service they had at the capital. So it was really kind of a healing party for everybody. It was good.

What else. That was pretty much that day and then I had to wash my clothes a couple of times to get the smoke out of them. And tried to get back into our space, retrieve a bunch of the stuff.

There was mainly—now its not there, cause of all the demolitions they've been doing, but, but everything, it was mainly big heavy smoke and water damage, but the office was still in tact.

But I guess the next office over, a much larger one, was, had parts where the floors were gone or something like that.

Q. (01:29:42) Did you lose much material? or -?

A. No.

Q. Hard stuff?

A. No. I mean it took a while to get it back just because they weren't letting people back in and a lot of the stuff, I mean I still have boxes that I need to go through, and you know, a lot of the stuff is, is so damaged, and they were talking about the mold and stuff like that. So we're Xeroxing the pages and throwing the pages out and then keeping –

Q. (01:30:06) Oh, keeping the Xerox?

A. It's a lot—it's a pain in the butt, you know.

Q. Wow.

A. And, but it has been—and then to get the computers back up and get in our new offices, it's been, you know, it's been a while. I'm just now, in the last couple of weeks trying to remember, OK, what was I working on. And I need to call that person. OK, you know, and these things that were kind of left undone.

Q. (01:32:32) So you've relocated to Crystal City?

A. Crystal City, yes sir.

Q. (01:30:35) How—when did that happen? I mean was that pretty quick?

A. Uh, it was about one week.

Q. One week.

A. So, I went into work a couple of times because, actually most of our division was out at San Diego on a, going on some conference. They were going to a Amphibious Warfare Conference. And so there was an O-6, that was the, I guess the senior guy that was left back here was calling people in for like, you know, a couple of hours one day, and couple hours the next day doing some budget drills, I guess. You know, if, basically doing some planning for the future, plus up and what would we spend it on, and you know, quick call your people and find out, you know, what we need so I can have accurate numbers to give to them basically, if, you know, if you could have—what would you ask for?

Q. (01:31:32) A wish list.

A. Yes. So we were working on that, and—but mainly we didn't come in until the following like Wednesday or Thursday of the following week. When we actually had a place to go. But it was totally open floor. There was no desks. There was no, it was just a rug.

Q. (01:31:53) Oh really?

A. Yes, and some offices on the side and then they had, you know, these large wooden tables brought in. Everything was happening pretty fast. I mean within one day we had tables and chairs, and then people working on wires, and the next day we had computers, but they weren't up yet, and the next day we had phones, but then they were up within the next, you know it's like

everyday there was, there's still people coming to work and the stuff from the ceiling's all over your desk.

Q. (01:32:17) Really. (laugh)

A. But so-

Q. (01:32:27) Did [REDACTED] know where your office was?

A. Yes, well, she knew because I was in charge of the renovation, not of that whole wing, but for my division. I was in charge of moving our division from our old spaces to the new spaces, which was in, one group in April and another group in June. And we moved from 5th corridor in the D ring and some were in the E ring. So I'm not sure if they would have been more affected if they would have stayed in that one section there, but I was in charge of that move, so. And she knew that, because I always complained about having this collateral duty that took all my time, and here I was, you know, all this training, and I've been a platoon commander, and you know, ready for war, and now I'm going to these meetings talking about what we, had the color of the drapes to be and you know, what chairs to pick out.

Q. (01:33:23) It's to round you out.

A. What's that?

Q. It's to round you out. (other questioner laughs)

A. Yeah, to round me out. And it'd just drive me nuts to sit in these meetings and people would argue about this stuff and I just thought this is absolutely insane, you know, and they'd pass

around the material for the carpet and the material for the chairs. Which material would your office vote for, cause they all have to be the same. So I'd just go with the majority.

Q. (01:33:50) Since September 11th though there's been a change in emphasis? I mean, we're supposedly on a war foot now.

A. Yes. Yes.

Q. (01:34:00) So these types of things have they been relegated to the back then?

A. Well actually, the couple, the week that we moved into our new offices, they started planning, you know, either, I think there was two options. Either—if we were going to move back to the Pentagon, where that was going to be, and then having to start planning with the, you know, the phone people, the computer folks, all the IT people, on where that's going to be. How many pookas you need, all the furniture people. What kind of furniture you're going to need, you know, and that all — (Sound of putting in another tape) —long winded, huh?

Q. (01:34:32) It's OK. It's good.

Q. (Another questioner) What I was getting at, especially as a SEAL –

A. Well, they called me to do that, because they said, “Well, who has experience in this stuff?”

Q. (laugh)

A. And actually it started because I check onboard my first day and COL Olson—get that it's O-l-s-o-n. (laugh)

COL Olson, Marine he was the EA for N 75, saw in my bio-sheet, Naval Architecture, so he associated Naval Architecture with the renovation project and thought—and gave me this stack of blue prints and history.

Q. (01:35:09) He thought there was a perfect guy.

A. A perfect guy.

Q. (01:35:11) Kind of like what you thought architecture was going to be, right?

A. Right, exactly.

Q. (01:35:15) Well, what I was getting at actually, what's your priority since September 11th, and what your concentrating and especially your background in special ops training for SEALs, and giving the way this things unfolding, but still you just picked up where you left off essentially? Your priorities are about the same?

A. You mean in my office in particular or personally?

Q. (01:35:37) Your day-to-day duties and responsibilities.

A. Day-to-day duties, a lot of the—I've been, a lot of the stuff I was working on was kind of put on the side. Even though I still need to get it done, and work on those things. A lot of the things I've been doing for the last two, three, four, weeks have been like small, I wouldn't say emergency, but small things. Hey, we need these today, or we need this tomorrow, and you know, we need to know, you know CBR. Did you guys need CBR? OK, call out to WARCUM. Find out what equipment you need. How many would you need? You know, we sent out

information on a, maybe a chem-bio detection system, or something out to the, you know, the SEAL command. It's been a lot more focused on.

Q. (01:36:39) Substantive?

A. Issues, you know, like terrorist type issues, or combating that or preventing that and, you know, as far as like, I mentioned I was working on the DCS. Well, that whole thing they kept all those boats that they were going to decommission now and they're all working for homeland security and doing different jobs. And now there was, you know, there was a few days where we were calling around informing people, trying to find out what actually was going to happen with those.

There was a SEAL Admiral down at SOCOM come up and had a meeting with all the SEALs and maybe deforce or dispel different rumors in the SEAL community as far as different things going on. Which O-6s or Admirals were going to get stationed where. Who was overseas. In general terms what was going, what they were doing. What was happening to the PCs. What's happening to, you k now, other things. Developmental things that are coming on line. What's happening with the plus-ups in the budget as far as the money being allocated to Special Operations as opposed to Navy or other forces?

So a lot of the focus has been shifted to operational focus and getting things done. Not necessarily—I know a lot of the different budgetal has been. What can we accomplish short term. What can we accomplish, you know, in the next ninety days? If you have a wish list, you know, give us your wish list that something that you could get in the next ninety days to help you. Not something that's like a project that you've had on the backburner that you know will come out in 08, or 09.

Q. (01:38:30) All this is taking you out of the interior decorating business, right. You're not doing that?

A. Well, they still tried to get me into that actually, but I sidestepped that one. But, Suzanne, She knew, she knew I was in the renovated portion, so in fact, she told me her feelings on that. When she first heard, she thought, "Oh," you know, "such a big place." The same as my father actually. He was thinking the Pentagon's so huge, you know, why would, it would not hit my exact section. And I guess a little bit later, then at first, I think reports were that it was an Army area.

Q. (01:39:06) Mainly.

A. Mainly, and then it came out that it was Navy/Marine Corps. Then it came out that it was the renovated area, and I think that's when [REDACTED] really started. She left about eight, ten messages on my answering machine. I could hear, you know, her finding out different things and so, yes, at that point when they heard it was the renovated section she knew. I had complained so much about that. But that's when they started to get worried, because that was the only renovated portion, you know, the Pentagon.

Q. Can you tell us about your first phone call with your parents?

A. I made so many calls. It might have been real short, actually, just you know, just appreciating that Suzanne called them to tell them that I was OK, and that they were glad I was OK. "OK, I've got a bunch of other calls to make."

“Yes, call us when you have time.” You know, and but I remember I couldn’t get through for a while. So I think I tried the landline and I ended up leaving a messages for them on their cell phones, or I may be wrong in that as well, but -

Q. (01:40:36) Have you had time to sit down and talk with them about it?

A. Yes, I sent them this thing, and it was actually, it was kind of weird because I went home that weekend afterwards and I guess my mom was pretty calm during the whole thing. She says that she was, you know, worried but when I heard from people in our building, they said—you know who, when I came home that weekend and put two and two together and realized that I worked at the Pentagon and they had seen my mom that day, and in front of me they were saying, “Wow,” you know, “You were really calm that day.” You know, “You really had control of yourself.” So then I kept hearing stories how calm my parents were, I’m like, “Don’t you guys worry about me? (laugh) What do I gotta, what do I have to do?” You know.

Q. (01:41:27) (laugh)

Q. (Another questioner) Where do your parents live?

A. New York City.

Q. That’s right, you said that.

A. And they, and my mom said, “Well, you know, we couldn’t call out and we knew you’d call as soon as you had a chance.” And my dad said that he wasn’t worried until, you know, there it was around eight o’clock. Then he said, “Yes, I started getting really concerned.”

Q. (01:41:56) Have you had a chance to talk with COL Kaiser since the -?

A. He got pulled away real fast. I talked to him. He's down in SOCOM, down in Florida. I called him a couple of times just because of people wanting different inputs for documenting stuff or words or what have you, or needed to get a name from him of someone else that was in the hole, and helping out. So I have talked to him twice real briefly, when he's been down in Florida. He just as gun ho as ever, you know, so.

Q. (01:42:28) Have you had a chance to share with him, though, what you've shared with us about his taking charge and -?

A. I heard that—no, not personally, I didn't get to say, "Hey, you know, I really appreciate what you did," or you know and he's always saying, "Well, you know it's only because I had guys like you there." So we go around in circles like hell.

Q. (01:42:52) Mutual admiration. That's right.

A. So but I heard that, I don't even remember who I heard this from, but I heard that his wife got the *Shipmate* magazine and sent it to him, so I think he knows about that, but I haven't talked to him since the *Shipmate* magazine –

Q. (01:43:10) Is he an Academy grad?

A. Yes, in fact, the 50 C (phonetic) group I was in, he was in that as well, a few years before I was, so. So we have that in common, kind of.

Q. (01:43:25) Where do you go from here?

A. I'm going to, actually before all this happen I was trying to decide whether to stay in or get out of the Navy. I never really thought about that until I got assigned to DC, and I really didn't want to, you know, I was just real upset actually, initially. I mean it's been a good tour. I've learned a lot, and it's been good for me being close to home and kind of doing some things I've always, you know, quote unquote want to do, because I've had more time on my hands to get involved with different things, but I was thinking about whether to stay or get out. There were a couple of different agencies I was looking in to.

Q. (01:44:06) Going into the interior decorating business?

A. No, not at all (everyone chuckles) not at all. No thanks.

Q. When you started to think about getting out of the Navy though, was it as a result of this tour? I mean before September 11.

A. Before September 11, it was a result of, it was a result, the spark I guess was getting assigned up here, when going through all the options with the detailer, I listed about five, six things I would do. I would love to do, and the one thing I didn't want to do is come up here. And that was about four or five months before I got assigned up here. And it was kind, it was one of those things where, you know, it was promised but there was nothing written down or anything.

Q. (01:44: 54) You'd been promised something else?

A. Yes, well not pro—I wouldn't say promised, but I was being sent somewhere else and then I got changed, and I'm sure that happens to everyone in the military. And so I'm, here I'm 03, probably sound like I have a bad attitude, but it was just a bad surprise.

Q. (01:45:09) Had you not been involved in these ancillary things, the interior decorating, but your focus had been purely operational, might you have stayed in the Navy? I mean is that what changed -?

A. You mean in my job up in DC?

Q. (01:45:22) Here.

A. If, if, I think if my job in DC, if I felt like I was contributing more to an operational area or focus, I think I definitely would have had much more pulls here.

Q. (01:45:36) That's a common observation that people make who have tours here. They feel like they're too far out of the operational mainstream.

A. I had no idea what was going on as far as SEALS were concerned. I was involved in re-writing instructions and you know, getting in the middle of O-6s arguing about—no offense, but, but I mean –

Q. (01:46:03) O-6s don't argue.

A. Arguing about what pooka they want or where they, you know, or that you know, if they want to be by the window or not.

Q. (01:46:15) You'll come down in appreciation for that.

A. I just –

Q. You hope not I know it.

Q. (another questioner) Not unusual. Not unusual.

A. But, but it was also as a result of, I don't think experiencing as much as I wanted to experience, I guess in the SEAL teams as well. It wasn't all that I expected it to be, and there's no blame to put on anybody, or chain of command or anything like that. It's just that, you know, timing, a lot of times if you're, you train and you go on deployment and you're in, you know, you're on the ready for six months when you're on deployment, and you've got the beepers and you're ready to go, and you're training with your guys and nothing happens, well nothing happens. You know, and you shouldn't feel bad. I know in my head I shouldn't feel bad about that because I was there ready to go, but then the next guys get to go do something. It was kind of a catch-22 because, you know, you don't necessarily want there to be conflict or, you know, but then you know, after seven years of training to do something, you feel like, a let down in a way. If you go through those seven years and now you're at the point where you're going to be working behind a desk and you haven't gotten the experiences that you sought to have, and –

Q. (01:47:36) That's very understandable.

A. So that's kind of where I was at. OK, what's left for me? As far as operational focus, and then I asked to be tasking commander and that was kind of the last operational, more where you're really amongst the operators as a Commander, where you deploy with them. Where you're either on a submarine, or deploy to Roda, Spain with them. And you know, you're still —it's almost like a platoon commander, but in charge of three platoons. You know SDV Platoon, SEAL platoon, that drives the submarines, the divers and also the maintenance techs. So you have a lot more responsibility, but your operational focused. So I got pulled from that to come up here and,

and with the leadership that I had up here, like I said before, everything was so compartmentalized, that initially, I was like, I don't think I gave it my best shot. But initially, you know, in different times where I get motivated and say, "OK, I'm going to learn as much as I can," I would request to go to meetings, or request, "Show me how to do the budget," or "teach me this."

"Ah, you don't need to know about that." "Oh, you don't need to know about that."

Q. (01:49:03) These were SEAL colleagues?

(everyone's chuckling)

Not necessarily?

A. Not necessarily. I don't know where this tapes going to turn up.

Q. Just say colleagues.

A. Colleagues or chain of command, but it's just different leadership styles. In our office most of Naval Special Warfare funding, and programs and different things come from SOCOM, and because of the agreement that SOCOM has with the Navy that the Navy will only fund things that are Navy-wide service common, so our office mainly, the main purpose was for budget and requirements, but because there weren't that many budget requirement, you know, things to do, maybe just three or four different line items or projects that were coming up. We had a lot of other collateral duties that were either maintaining the classification guidance instruction or maintaining this instruction or updating these instructions. So there was a lot of other things that were not, like you said operational focused, and it just, in one sense it was good to do a lot of stuff outside of work. Be involved, everyday of the week I had just, I would get home, 'til ten

o'clock at night, because I was doing classes and doing music and doing Bible studies and doing just 'cause I had to do stuff. But I think, you know, definitely that was—agreed what you're saying.

Q. (01:50:29) Since 11 September, changed your thinking? The world that we're facing now?

A. Well, before September 11th I went through the whole decision process of staying in or getting out. I decided to stay in and with that done, they, my question was OK, since I came up here instead of doing my operations officer ticket, it kind of set me back from my colleagues a little bit. Now being up for O4, without having done that, and going up for XO screening, how can I make that up and become more competitive. So the answer to that question was doing an overseas OPs officer job. So then what was available over seas was, when I asked that back in August, or actually July, was Puerto Rico, Guam or Bahrain. And I never imagined myself going to Bahrain, but when I asked about which was the best place to go, hands down from all the different SEAL colleagues and sea daddys and different officers said Bahrain would be the best place operationally, and financially, you know on your record and everything. You know, you're single and go on over there. So that's what I put in for and I got that. Back in August I got my orders about two week maybe or about a month before this happened, to go there for two years as operations officer. So, then definitely when this happened it definitely woke me up to think, OK, now, almost like there's somehow a massive plan behind it all. Like you know, I was already going there, but now it's—I'm actually going to be doing something and maybe I'll be able to make a difference or have the experience that I was seeking before. It won't be in operational roles meaning jumping out a helo or going on a fast route for busting in the doors or

whatever, but I'll be on that side of things planning and controlling and you know, being in control.

So, I'm excited to go over there. No, I've never been there, so I have no idea really what to expect, and it's difficult to get information on this side of what's going on. I know I've talked to the XO out there and he wants me yesterday, or two months ago, and I'm going to stick with the orders right now that I have, which is depart in December, arrive in January. Although I might depart in December and arrive in December.

Q. (01:53:26) Key time to be going there.

A. Yes, definitely, definitely. So I'm still, I'm still—well after this happened I, I started thinking more about the new contract and the SEAL officers have, they can re-up for a certain amount of years, and get a bonus or whatever, but doing that over in Bahrain everything's tax free, and I think the most I can sign back on for is five years, so I been thinking about doing that.

So I may stay in. I'm still trying to make that decision.

Q. (01:54:03) You're still mulling it over?

A. What's that?

Q. You're still mulling it over?

A. Well, the thing is that I guess when I talk about getting out, I'm thinking to get out, but to, you know, I look at what's going now, and I, maybe it's still part of the feelings of my job and the dissatisfaction I have and I look at, look I have friends in the FBI, and that in the FBI, I have friends who are in the CIA, and I think about those things, or my girlfriend's even NCIS, and

she's only been in the job for a few months, and I feel like she's done more things than I have, you know as far as, you know, personal protection or you know. Just yesterday she was doing personal protection for CNO and Secretary of the Navy and, I feel like man, you know, I'm sitting home and sitting at my desk.

Q. (01:54:58) It's good you have all these options. That's good.

A. So, so when I say get out, I'm, I'm, —it's not in a sense of I don't want to serve my country anymore. It's more in a sense of how can I serve better, serve more, or make more of a difference. So sometimes I feel like the military is limited in what you can do somehow. So maybe it's just a selfish search for fulfillment of ego. I have no idea.

Q. (01:55:39) Self-actualization.

A. What's that?

Q. Self-actualization.

A. Oh, yes.

Q. (01:55:39) Were there any lessons learned from your experiences that you can share with us?

A. Definitely, you know going through a new command, making sure that there's an evac plan or an emergency plan, and everybody knows it. That you drill it. If there's ever a chance to send people from the command to an EMT course, take it, and you know bump that up directly on a priority list. Drill that. Those are my two, probably two biggest lessons learned. Making people aware of dangers and what to do and also how to help, be able to help out individually. Also

COMs, maybe there would be, you know, like people have the fire extinguishers, you know, on walls and stuff like that, and maybe there should be a radio in a wall as well that's you know fresh. You know, on a certain channel, because you know, I know that talking to Captain Bob Schultze who was in the—he's a SEAL, was in the Pentagon. Works for OSD, and he immediately, he was in the POAC, and he never heard the explosion or anything. He was just told to get out of the building, He had finished working out. Then he immediately got pulled into, back into the Pentagon to have a briefing with the Secretary of Defense and you know other important folks. And the biggest thing that he said was he had no communications with what was going on. Whether there were casualties or not and the first communication they had with anyone that was actually there or anything was an Army Lieutenant Colonel coming in with his head all bandaged and kind of bloody. Someone escorting him to report on what had happened. And so, you know, maybe there, you know, there should be not just fire extinguishers, but some kind of emergency radio that you can just say OK, just grab it on the wall and say, "this is what's going on." You know, this channel, whatever.

Q. (01:58:03) Who are some others we should talk with?

A. You've talked to CDR Powell?

Q. Right.

A. Are you just doing Navy?

Q. (01:58:12) Navy, civilian and active duty.

A. OK, you talked to Mark Pugh?

Q. Right.

A. And –

Q. (01:58:22) I do have Captain Shultz down.

A. Did you talk to him?

Q. I have not yet, but we would like to talk to him.

A. I don't think he would offer much on the crime scene so to speak, but he would have more to offer on what the higher ups were thinking. What was going through their minds. What they were doing.

Q. (01:58:38) Right.

Q. (another questioner) Yes.

A. I know from talking to him just the other night, Saturday night, he said that, you know it was interesting to him to hear the things that, the first things that they were thinking of, and one of the first things was to make sure that our allies knew why we were going to a high state of readiness. And that everyone knew. That all the countries knew what was going on so that there wasn't an escalation around the globe.

Q. (01:59: 06) Right.

A. And the thing, you know, things are much broader scope so and you know how many planes were unaccounted for and that type of thing, but so you'd probably get an interesting perspective from that side of the house, from the Secretary of Defense side, so.

Q. (01:59:31) Any other questions?

Q. (another questioner) You're a heck of an interview.

A. What's that?

Q. You're a heck of an interview.

A. I'm sorry I (unintelligible 01:59:35) (chuckle)

Q. (01:59:37) I have one question that's a human-interest thing. I'm sure one of these historians one day is going to say, how did you find your roommates? How did you come up with your five roommates?

A. All right, you asked. I was coming up from Norfolk, I got a house hunting lead. Curious why anybody would ask the questions, but, it's an interesting honest answer here. OK, I was living in a house down in Norfolk with four other guys. They were all Christians and I became a Christian when I was twelve years old, but I've you know, the platoons have kind of, and the SEALs and that whole lifestyle, I've kind of strayed in the last, you know, two or three years. Strayed more than that, but, but realized the importance of living with folks that have the same goals and have the same ideals and the same values rather than living with folks that are maybe partying every weekend and doing stuff like that. So it was, so when I was looking for a place up here, that was kind of—and the main part of my thinking, I was praying for and looking for other Christian

roommates. I had no, I didn't know anybody that lived up in DC except for one girl who I knew from my church out in San Diego. And the day I called up here to find a place, I asked her if she knew anybody and she said she'd look.

Well it was that same day, she saw something on the, on some website, that was put on the website, I think that day or within those couple of days, and she called me back the next day saying, "Hey, I know this guy. I met this guy and he says he's looking for a Christian roommate. But I've only met him like a couple of times and but he seems like an OK guy, I just don't know him that well."

So I thought, I had the number and I kind of had the feeling like, well that is pretty, you know, I was praying for, I was looking for a place that was close to work and a garage, because I had just bought a Harley, and in DC I thought that thing will be gone in a second.

Q. (laugh)

A. So a garage, a place that's close to work, a cheap place and a Christian roommate, one or two, didn't matter. And so I'm looking, for the rest of the week I actually didn't—I called them and then we made an appointment later on in the week to get together, and I kind of felt like that might be my answer right there without even looking, but I felt kind of here I had this lead. I might as well look for a place so all week I looked in the papers and went around to places and nothing really, you know, worked. Even met some other Christian guys, but it just didn't really feel comfortable at all. Finally, at the end of the week, I went to this guy's house. It was just right on the other side of Iwo Jima Memorial. Literally five minutes from the Pentagon parking lot. You know, 50. They have a garage that's not being used, and the rent was going to be four hundred bucks a month, and you know, a bunch of, you know, all the guys are totally cool. And

two of the guys in the house were Christians already. So I felt like it was an answer to prayer so I kinds of chuckled when you asked me that.

And it's funny because when she gave me the name and the number I kind of felt like that was probably it anyway. Even though I looked the rest of the week and so it's been a really cool experience living there. One of the guys works on the hill for a Senator of Arkansas. One of the guys is a Ford salesman for Ford Motor Company. Another one works for some environmental company or something like that, and one was a construction manager. They're all about twenty-eight, twenty-nine years old.

It's an eight-bedroom house. It's huge.

Q. Wow.

A. Right there on Clarendon. You know, four hundred bucks a month. All those things, you can't beat it. It was perfect, so it was kind of amazing to me.

Q. Great.

Q. (Another) Who has the grand piano.

A. Oh, that's me. I bought that.

Q. That's yours.

A. I bought it for Christmas last year.

Q. Wow.

Q, (02:04:11) What are you going to do with it, if you go to Bahrain?

A. I think I'm going to take it with me.

Q. Are you really? Wow.

A. I'm going to take the risk, but my roommates were sad because they wanted to keep having these parties, but –

Q. (02:04: 23) Well, tell them they can, but they just have to come to Bahrain.

A. Yes, right, right so. Well my one roommate's got a, his parents have a piano, he said he's going to be able to move it in, because everybody's getting into these once a month jazz, live jazz, and at [REDACTED].

Q. Wow.

Q. Anything else you want to add for the historical record?

A. Historical, (laugh) Can't believe all this stuff's on historical record. No I don't think so.

Q. Thanks Olin, we appreciate your coming and you are a good interview.

A. OK, good.

Q. I personally admire what you've done. I really do. What you do and what you're going to continue to do.

Q. (another) I'll say for the record too that the Navy needs more people like you.

Q. I was going to say, I'd serve with you anytime.

Q. Class of '92 and a very key time for the military of our nation who are young, up and coming leaders so the Navy or whoever needs more people like you, so.

A. Well, I try and live up to that. Thanks.

Transcribed by:
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