

Lessons Learned 19 NOV – 26 NOV

Lessons learned [REDACTED]

From a physical perspective, there were some fire doors in the Pentagon that nobody seemed to know anything about. There was some way to open the doors but nobody seemed to know how to do it. Most people did not even know the doors existed. Some people thought that the incident was a drill. There was much less damage than would have been thought. There would have been no way of knowing this was going to happen. He said it was unfortunate to have to go through this. He would advise any young aviator to come in to the Navy and to “try it... Some folks are gonna come in and just love it...”

Lessons learned: [REDACTED]

We should all have a designated place to go. They know where to go now, but they didn't have any idea on the 11th. Organization was a weak point. She said there has to be a disaster plan in place.

Lessons Learned: CMDCM Bond

Anyone associated with this type of duty assignment needs to keep in focus that what they are doing is for the families left behind.

You have to believe in what you're doing and understand it. You can't play politics in dealing with the deceased and their families.

You need to be able to make decisions and set precedent. Master Chief made the decision to put medals on the uniforms of the deceased. Their end of tour and posthumous awards were pinned to their uniforms. The parent command took care of the citation writing and presentation of the awards and medals to the families. Two sets of awards were then presented, one with the body and one to the family.

It took about five weeks for them to sort out their chain of command. Whoever writes the instruction, owns the instruction and should be the person in charge for Navy mass casualties. They need to write a cookbook for how you set up for mass casualties. Who is responsible for CACO's. Who do you get information from, who do you liase with, who coordinates the CACOs. Roles and responsibilities need to be delineated.

Lessons Learned: CDR Powell

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

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

It would have been nice to have a complete uniform communications system that a person would have essential control and there were radios for different people. Breathing apparatus and ropes would have been nice. He was hoping he would find a repair locker, as would be found on a ship. Having central communications would have allowed them to tell where trapped people had been found and when and how many had been recovered.