


UNITED STATES ARMY
CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY

INTERVIEW OF


Fire Fighter, Fort Myer Fire Department

NEIT 218

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The Center of Military History

AT

Fort Myer Fire Station

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TAPE TRANSCRIPTION

1 PROCEEDINGS

2 [REDACTED]: This is [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED] Today I'm talking to a [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED] who is a fire fighter with the Fort Myer Fire
5 Department.

6 Now [REDACTED], can you tell me a little bit
7 about your life up to being hired here at Fort Myer?

8 [REDACTED] Yeah. I was a Navy veteran for four
9 and a half years. Is it working?

10 [REDACTED] Oh yeah, it's working.

11 [REDACTED] I was a Navy veteran for four and a
12 half years. I was in Vietnam in 1968. My job title
13 was hospital corpsman. I was trained to work in an
14 operating room. And that's what I worked at most of
15 the time when I was in the Navy was in surgery.

16 I got out of the service in 1970 and was married
17 for 24 years, had two children, did a variety of jobs.

18 A lot of them had to do with construction, plumbing.
19 I was in a carpenters union.

20 I got hired by the federal government working for
21 the Air Force as a fire fighter in 1981. Worked there

1 in Columbus, Ohio until 1993 until I was transferred to
2 Fort Myer as a civilian and continued on with the
3 Department of Defense as a federal fire fighter.

4 [REDACTED]: Were you a fire fighter before
5 you entered into federal service in Columbus?

6 [REDACTED]: I was a volunteer for 17 years.

7 [REDACTED]: So you already pretty much had
8 all the training you needed?

9 [REDACTED]: I had a lot of training, yeah.

10 [REDACTED]: Have you ever been on fire as
11 phase one on 9/11?

12 [REDACTED]: No, that was the biggest incident
13 I'd ever been involved in.

14 [REDACTED]: Do you train with the other
15 fire departments around the area here like Arlington
16 County?

17 [REDACTED]: Yeah, a little bit. We use their
18 facilities from time to time.

19 [REDACTED]: So you train on them, you
20 don't train with them?

21 [REDACTED]: Not too much. We don't drill with

1 them, I'll say it that way. We don't have a lot of
2 coordinated drills where we are actually working with
3 and coordinating our department with theirs in training
4 or drills.

5 [REDACTED] Do you have work with the fire
6 department over on Reagan National Airport?

7 [REDACTED] Well --

8 [REDACTED] Also, because you work with
9 aircraft at the Pentagon.

10 [REDACTED] I never have since I've been here.
11 However, they were available on September 11 to help us
12 at the incident at the Pentagon. We actually had two
13 of their major air field vehicles there.

14 [REDACTED] Do you train quite a bit for
15 aircraft or just for helicopters?

16 [REDACTED] I think here at Fort Myer we're more
17 concerned about the rotary wing than the helicopter
18 type --

19 [REDACTED] Rotary wing?

20 [REDACTED] -- helicopter type aircraft. We
21 don't have facilities to land fixed wing at the

1 Pentagon.

2 [REDACTED] And you work here and at the
3 Pentagon also?

4 [REDACTED] Yeah, yeah. We have -- during the
5 week unless it's a holiday or like Christmas or
6 something like that, during the week we will have a
7 crew assigned to the Pentagon heliport station. And
8 they'll be down there usually by 7:30. And they will
9 remain there throughout the day as long as there's
10 flying there.

11 [REDACTED] And was that your duty station
12 today?

13 [REDACTED] That day?

14 [REDACTED] Yes.

15 [REDACTED] That's correct, yeah.

16 [REDACTED] And you were fairly close to
17 the where the impact of the airplane was, were you not?

18 [REDACTED] Yeah.

19 [REDACTED] Could you tell me a little bit
20 about what you were doing and what led up to that
21 incident?' Did you hear about the World Trade Center at

1 the time?

2 [REDACTED] Yeah. We had heard about the World
3 Trade Center attacks. I was reading a book. I had
4 pulled the fire truck out of the station and parked it
5 where you see in the pictures if you see the pictures
6 -- it was outside the fire station.

7 I was reading a book in the back of the apparatus
8 area. The apparatus door for the firehouse was up, it
9 was open. [REDACTED] comes into the room and tells
10 me that there's been a -- a plane has crashed into one
11 of the World Trade Center buildings in Manhattan.

12 So I got up and walked in and looked at the TV for
13 a few minutes. I don't usually watch TV. And while I
14 was watching it, another plane hit the south building
15 -- or hit the other building. And at that point I
16 guess they were pretty certain that it was some type of
17 attack, a terrorist attack.

18 So shortly after that I guess the fire chief
19 called down to the firehouse and talked to the three of
20 us. He talked to -- [REDACTED] answered the phone,
21 and I would only imagine he told [REDACTED] the same thing

1 that a few moments later he told me. He asked to speak
2 to me.

3 Told me -- he asked me if we were aware of the
4 World Trade Center attacks and I said yes. And he said
5 there's a very likely chance that Washington, D.C.
6 could be a target and that he wanted us to pay
7 attention to what was going on, stay on our toes, be
8 alert. And then he asked for [REDACTED] to come to
9 the phone.

10 So [REDACTED] -- I'm sure he spoke the same information
11 to [REDACTED] So then we hung up the phone. [REDACTED] and I
12 started doing something around the fire truck. I would
13 imagine this was probably quarter after 9:00, you know,
14 maybe around 9:30 or so, may not quite that late, but
15 it was definitely after the second World Trade Center
16 attack.

17 And [REDACTED] and I had been working at the rear, the
18 right rear of the fire truck. [REDACTED] was showing me
19 something about the foam metering valves in that
20 compartment there. It was just the fire fighting
21 system compartments.

1 And we had just left that -- he had jumped down
2 out of there and he closed the door of the compartment
3 and he and I began to walk up along the right side of
4 the crash truck, the fire truck that's assigned there
5 at the Pentagon.

6 And we were walking to the front of the truck.
7 And sometime after we passed the right front corner of
8 the truck we were just, I don't know what we were
9 talking about, we were very close, you know, within an
10 arm's reach of each other.

11 . And somewhere in that area in front of the truck I
12 just happened to look up to my left and see the
13 airplane right there just a couple hundred yards away.

14 And it was coming after us. It was coming at us. So
15 I yelled to [REDACTED] "Let's go" I believe. I believe that
16 is what I said. And so I ran and [REDACTED] ran. I didn't
17 see which way [REDACTED] ran. And later I asked him about
18 that, if he saw which way I ran and he said, "No."

19 So I can tell you that my thoughts were that I
20 knew that as I was running I thought to myself, "Now
21 it's happening here. Now we are being attacked here in

1 the Washington area."

2 In addition to that, we're talking about a second
3 and a half here now, okay? They talk about having your
4 life go by, you know, as you see something like this
5 happen, in slow motion. I don't think I experienced
6 that. But it seemed like I had a lot of time to think
7 about things. And, in fact, I had about a second and a
8 half, from the time we saw the plane and until it hit
9 the building.

10 So during that time that's one of the things that
11 crossed my mind. The other thing that crossed my mind
12 is I knew I was going to be on fire very soon. And my
13 thoughts were to run as far as I could until I caught
14 on fire and then I would hit the ground, and then after
15 that I would do whatever I thought of, you know,
16 whatever came to mind.

17 At that point when I felt the blast and the fire
18 and everything that's when I did dive forward and it
19 just happened to be right beside a nine passenger Ford
20 van which was parked beside the firehouse facing north.

21 I immediately crawled underneath the van and crawled

1 to the front of the van.

2 As I recall, there was an enormous amount of
3 pressure and a lot of heat that was coming underneath
4 the van so I decided maybe I ought to get out of there.

5 So I continued on out the front of the van. And I
6 guess probably about that time that was about the end
7 of the explosion and the amount of debris that was
8 being projected away from the building.

9 So I ran out into the field where [REDACTED] was. I
10 don't think he moved until I got out there where he
11 was. And I asked [REDACTED] if he was okay and he asked me
12 if I was okay. And I honestly think at that time -- I
13 told the story differently when I would tell it to
14 people. I first told people that I asked him, "Can you
15 work?" and he said, "Yeah." And I said, "Can you get
16 your gear on?" and he said, "Yeah." And I said, "Get
17 your gear on, I'm going back to the fire truck."

18 I honestly think what I said though was, after I
19 said, "Are you okay?" he said, "Yeah." I said, "Get
20 your shit on, I'm going to the fire truck. We've got a
21 lot of work to do. I'm going to the fire truck." So I

1 left [REDACTED] and ran back to the fire truck, jumped in the
2 passenger side door.

3 For your information, the fire truck is very
4 similar to the one you see sitting out in front of the
5 firehouse.

6 [REDACTED]: What type of fire truck is
7 that?

8 [REDACTED]: It's --

9 [REDACTED]: Is that a normal --

10 [REDACTED]: Yeah, it's a Titan 150 I think.

11 It's made by a company in Ocala, Florida. The name of
12 the company is Emergency One, E-One is their nickname.

13 I believe they are the largest manufacturer of
14 emergency vehicles in the world right now. It's a
15 pretty good machine.

16 And the one we've got out here has actually got a
17 lot more accessories than the one we had that was
18 destroyed at the Pentagon. So my intentions were to
19 the get the fire truck because that's what it's there
20 for is fire protection, pull the fire truck away from
21 the building and turn it over to the left and take it

1 over to the impact site where the blast occurred and
2 dump the foam and water agent that's carried on the
3 truck into the blast site.

4 I at some point picked up the radio headsets and
5 put those on, pushed the buttons to start the truck.
6 It started immediately. I pushed the brake off, yanked
7 it gear and tramped the accelerator and it just
8 wouldn't -- the engine speed never left idle. It just
9 set there. It never moved.

10 So I did this several times. I moved the
11 transmission selector several times thinking I'd done
12 something wrong or out of sequence. And at some point
13 while I was in there I called Fort Myer to tell them
14 that we had had a commercial airliner strike the west
15 side of the Pentagon.

16 This is exactly what I said. Once again I said,
17 "Foam 161 to Fort Myer. We've had a commercial
18 airliner strike the west side of the Pentagon at the
19 heliport. The heliport crew is okay with minor
20 injuries. The aircraft was a 320 air bus or a 757
21 Boeing."

1 I immediately took the headsets off, threw them
2 into the dash, stepped over the radios and began to get
3 out of the truck. At that point there was a -- maybe a
4 police officer who was wearing black like the Pentagon
5 S.W.A.T. are the guys that wear black.

6 [REDACTED]: Right.

7 [REDACTED] They asked me if we had a breathing
8 apparatus. So I handed him one. My friend [REDACTED] was
9 there and he had been yelling for me to get out of the
10 truck. The whole back of the truck was blazing. There
11 was an enormous amount of smoke coming through the cab
12 of the truck. And I think the seat that I was sitting
13 on, the side of the seat was on fire.

14 So I gave [REDACTED] a breathing apparatus and there was
15 still a third one in the truck. And I eventually
16 removed it but not for probably about a half hour.

17 I took my helmet at that point and threw it out of
18 the truck. I grabbed a lantern and set it on the
19 floor, or on the seat beside the officer's seat, and I
20 grabbed my mask out of the cab and I got down out of
21 the truck and I reached around and took the lantern, my

1 face piece, picked up my helmet and put them in an area
2 over by the corner of the firehouse that was relatively
3 out of the way.

4 I mean, it was a place where I could put it until
5 I needed it later. I went into the firehouse to put my
6 fire pants and boots on, and about this time I heard a
7 man who was at the Pentagon working -- as it turned
8 out, he was helping people get out of the building
9 there, out of these first floor windows.

10 And as I ran into the fire station I heard this
11 man yell, "We need help back here." So at this point
12 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and I, I believe, were together and
13 stayed together until we pretty much removed the people
14 from this area or helped them get out of the building.

15 So when I saw that my boots were full of rocks and
16 trash and everything else, quite a bit of debris, I
17 chose to -- maybe more so because I heard this guy
18 yelling that he needed help, I chose to leave the
19 boots. I figured I could put them on later.

20 So the three of us ran behind the fire truck and
21 began to help this fellow who in my opinion was in

1 charge of this operation. And I have yet to hear
2 anything about this guy.

3 And once again, I will describe what he looked
4 like. He was tall, probably 35 or 40 years old, white
5 male, rugged looking fellow, good physical shape,
6 probably an active duty service member. He was wearing
7 a black polo shirt with a red monogrammed -- some type
8 of emblem over the breast pocket. There was no pocket
9 on the shirt. He was wearing black blue jeans. In my
10 opinion he was instrumental in helping people get out
11 of the building.

12 So if you can mention that, I think that ought to
13 be mentioned.

14 [REDACTED] Okay.

15 [REDACTED]: I did, however, talk to him after we
16 had been in the triage area for a while. We were
17 actually walking over to the crash area because I
18 wasn't to see the rest of our fire fighters and let
19 them know that we were okay. And I got this guy's
20 name.

21 It was -- it wasn't [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] or anything

1 like that. It was like [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] or something
2 like that. And I probably wouldn't recognize him if I
3 saw him.

4 So I was saying the three of us were involved in
5 that operation for maybe five minutes. I don't think
6 any longer than ten minutes. And all we were pretty
7 much doing was we'd reach up and get the next person
8 and the four or five of us -- these people seemed to be
9 all big and fat. I mean, all of them were.

10 They were real -- some of them had -- all of them
11 I think had burns. A lot of the clothing that they
12 would have been wearing for that day for that day's
13 work was the type of material that was relatively
14 flammable, combustible. A lot of the material of the
15 clothing that they were wearing had been consumed by
16 the fire and the blast, the flash, whatever.

17 But we would just, you know, three or four of us
18 would grab a hold of one person and lower them down to
19 the ground. And then as were doing this there's other
20 people coming around there to see -- first of all, for
21 the curiosity I think to see what has happened and then

1 realized there's a need there to help.

2 And then we had an enormous amount of people come
3 in there to help with these people that we were lifting
4 out of the building. So that helped us so we didn't
5 have to carry as many people away from the building.

6 [REDACTED]: How far is the first floor
7 windows from the ground?

8 [REDACTED] I'd say five and a half feet. I
9 actually looked at that later on. Five and a half feet
10 to the bottom of the window. The windows had metal
11 frames in them I believe. And I think that's how Mark
12 and I had these symmetrical linear looking striped
13 burns on our arms.

14 We both had burns in the same place. It might
15 have been when we were touching this window because we
16 already had first-degree burns from the flash back
17 here, the back of my neck. This arm was scraped up
18 from where I slid underneath the van. But both arms
19 had first-degree burns.

20 And then this arm on me had these just stripes
21 like somebody had hit me with about a half inch or a

1 three-quarter inch wide whip or something. And [REDACTED]
2 has very similar burns on his arms. We think that
3 might have come from contacting this hot window.

4 But we continued to take the people out of the
5 building there with the help of other people also. And
6 then eventually I guess there was nobody else there to
7 come out. So I guess it was time for me to go get my
8 fire pants on, so I picked them up, kicked the junk
9 away from them and dumped them out as best I could and
10 I put them on and there were still pieces of tempered
11 glass, tiny pieces of plywood that were burnt.

12 I finally took it all out and dumped it on the
13 tile floor in the kitchen later on that night and swept
14 it up and put it in a little film can as a souvenir,
15 you know, just a half a dozen pieces of junk that was
16 still in the boots.

17 But I put the boots and pants on. While my stuff
18 was laying the apparatus area I think a piece of maybe
19 something was on fire from the aircraft landed on --
20 there's several holes in the pants where the pants were
21 burned. The material that the fire pants is made of is

1 relatively fire resistant.

2 However, the suspenders are elastic and they
3 caught on fire and one whole half of the suspender
4 burned. I think it just burned in both directions. It
5 burned right up to the fire pants and stopped burning.

6 But I did get my pants and boots on and I put my coat
7 and sock coat on.

8 I grabbed two fire extinguishers. One was a
9 carbon dioxide fire extinguisher, which turned out to
10 be about more than half empty. And the other one was a
11 20 pound purple K potassium bicarbonate agent fire
12 extinguisher. I sprayed the carbon dioxide on the fire
13 truck as I walked around the back end of it, and it
14 didn't seem to do any good. And it was almost empty so
15 I discarded that.

16 I also had picked up a lantern, a big orange
17 lantern. When you see the truck you'll see them. I
18 proceeded to go around the back of the fire truck and
19 into this area that had a door there just to the south
20 of where the fire truck was parked. I have never seen
21 these doors open.

1 But I think what had happened -- they were huge,
2 big, wooden doors and they're all around the building.

3 These doors did not have any handles on them as I
4 recall on the outside. And there was like a set of
5 steps, maybe two or three steps high that went up to
6 this area though that went right up to the doors.
7 These doors were completely gone. They were probably
8 blown out of the building.

9 Then I walked in the building there and used the
10 fire extinguishers some and made contact with some
11 people. I was talking to them. I do not remember
12 actually making physical contact with them. They did
13 not seem to be in any distress. I just kept talking to
14 them.

15 And later on I thought to myself why didn't I go
16 on in the building after these people? As it turns
17 out, there was an article in the Washington Post about
18 a lady who was talking about a fireman with a fire
19 extinguisher. I don't think -- I do not remember
20 making contact with anybody.

21 It could very well be that I did not. But she is

1 describing things that I remember. I remember her
2 clapping her hands and talking. I would say she was 35
3 to 40 years old and did not appear to be in any
4 distress. And I just kept talking to her.

5 But I do not remember making any physical contact
6 with her or seeing her. I don't know how many people
7 might have been with her. That's the end of that story
8 I guess.

9 [REDACTED] Did you have any breathing
10 apparatus on?

11 [REDACTED] No, I never had a breathing
12 apparatus on. I never had a helmet on all during this,
13 and I never had gloves on.

14 [REDACTED]: How long was it from the
15 explosion to when you went back in the building with
16 the fire extinguisher?

17 [REDACTED] Maybe ten minutes, maybe. Yeah, I'm
18 just guessing.

19 [REDACTED] Did it take you that long to
20 get the people out of the building afterwards?

21 [REDACTED] I would say I don't think we did

1 that any longer than ten minutes I would say. The
2 results though -- of course, there were windows above
3 us there.

4 One of the things I thought of when we were
5 working was I thought of ladders on the fire truck.
6 Well, that truck that we had down there does not have
7 any ladders on it. However -- and that was my thought,
8 "Well shit, we don't have any ladders."

9 However, there were actually two ladders in the
10 fire station. It never occurred to me to use these.
11 We had a small, very portable ladder that one person
12 could operate, and we had about a 24-foot extension
13 ladder.

14 However, it never was brought to my attention that
15 there were people on the upper floors that needed to
16 get out of the building and could have gotten out of
17 the building if they had had a ladder. That never -- I
18 never saw that.

19 So I guess that didn't matter. Ladders didn't
20 enter into it. Maybe the people that were that much --
21 just one floor away from it were in better shape and

1 were less injured as a result of the impact and were
2 able to go out another way like go down hallways to the
3 north and south of the blast area. And --

4 [REDACTED] Was the Pentagon collapsed at
5 that time?

6 [REDACTED] No. That didn't happen until about
7 a half later after the incident. At the time of the
8 collapse, and I know I'm getting a little farther
9 ahead, at the time of the collapse we had just moved
10 our big monitor nozzle, a big deluch (phonetic) gun
11 about 35 or see feet closer to the building.

12 I had taken a 50 foot section of four inch hose
13 off the engine. We had shut that line down. We had
14 taken a hose, taken the gun off of it, plugged the hose
15 onto it, straightened out the hose and plugged the
16 other end of the hose onto the deluch gun. And we had
17 moved it closer to the building.

18 And just about that time I think [REDACTED]
19 mentioned that he thought he saw the building, the
20 cornice of the building, move. And he looked at it
21 again and he said something and he looked back again

1 and all of a sudden just the very top of it dropped
2 down. And that's when they started to call for people
3 to back up.

4 Well, we were actually in a safe -- we were still
5 probably about fifty feet from the building. And the
6 building's probably about sixty feet higher right
7 there, sixty or seventy feet high right there. So --
8 and we weren't working in front of the collapsed area.

9 We were to the north of that. We were actually right
10 in front of the fire truck. So I'm going to back up
11 now.

12 Once I got done with -- once I walked out of the
13 there with the fire extinguisher, I guess I walked out
14 with the fire extinguisher, one of the things that when
15 we were taking people out of the building I had walked
16 this one lady out toward the helipad and I said -- and
17 I think somebody else was there and I said, "I need you
18 to help take this lady out to the guardrail, clear out
19 to the highway" which was probably 150 to 175 feet away
20 from the -- 150 to 175 yards away from the side of the
21 Pentagon.

1 And as I turned around there were two guys or
2 possibly three guys carrying this one fellow who was
3 not responsive. He appeared to be almost unconscious.

4 His arms were up in the air like this. They were
5 having a hard time carrying this fellow.

6 So that's when I lent my arm, my right arm, and
7 put my arm underneath his waist or torso or something
8 and began to carry -- we carried him from there, which
9 was between the firehouse and the helipad. We carried
10 him from there clear out to the guardrail and laid him
11 down.

12 And then I went back to the building. I remember
13 stepping over the yellow fire hose. And at the time I
14 didn't realize that that yellow fire hose was ours. It
15 was -- I mean, what that should have meant to me was
16 our people were here. We have laid the four-inch
17 supply hose and our people are here, you know?

18 At the time I didn't think of it that way. I just
19 remembered seeing it and stepping over it and going
20 back to the building. So we worked there and got the
21 people out of the building as best we could. I finally

1 got dressed, used the fire extinguishers.

2 And then by this point we've got people coming up
3 into our area with a hand line, a hose with a nozzle on
4 it, and they are going to be attacking the fire in this
5 area. That was [REDACTED] (phonetic) and his
6 crew.

7 And so at that point I pretty much went into a
8 gopher mode. I started running errands. [REDACTED] needed
9 a different nozzle tip for the nozzle he was using so I
10 ran out to the engine. [REDACTED] at this time was
11 on top of the engine and he was getting ready. He was
12 either setting the deluch gun or they were getting
13 ready to take it off of the truck and had it down to
14 the ground and move it closer to the building.

15 But I asked [REDACTED] to give me the tip, the very
16 end tip on the end of this big stack of nozzles. As
17 you unscrew the tips the one below it gets bigger and
18 bigger and bigger. They're about this long. And so I
19 took that tip back out to [REDACTED] and gave it
20 to him for his people.

21 Shortly after that I think I took the third

1 breathing apparatus off the truck. I began to take the
2 hose off the crash truck, not so much because I didn't
3 want it to burn up, but I could see where later on that
4 afternoon there's a very good chance that we might need
5 another 300 feet of hose.

6 So we had 150 feet of hose on each side of the
7 truck, I took that off, two more fire extinguishers I
8 took off; two air bottles; a portable lamp and an
9 extension cord; I think another lamp and an extension
10 cord; a section of four inch hose, 25 foot section of
11 four inch hose; some tools, things like this.

12 I jumped up in the cab, got the breathing
13 apparatus, was looking around for anything in there
14 that we needed that I thought we could use. There were
15 no portable radios in the cab. We don't keep them
16 there. We keep them in the firehouse. And [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED] had already removed those and brought those
18 outside, out to this one safe area.

19 [REDACTED]: Right.

20 [REDACTED] I have a question for you.

21 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

1 [REDACTED] Where did you keep your fire pants?
2 Are they on the -- and your jacket and your helmet --
3 all on the truck or --

4 [REDACTED] No. My pants were sitting
5 right in the -- well, I'll tell you where they were
6 when I found them. They should have been over closer
7 to the west wall of the firehouse. I was the person in
8 charge that day of the crew.

9 [REDACTED] Right.

10 [REDACTED] And I would have been sitting
11 in the extreme right, the officer's seat. And so I
12 would keep my pants there. My helmet and mask would
13 have been on the dash of the truck. Actually, the mask
14 would have been plugged into the hose that comes from
15 the breathing apparatus. It's just a good way to keep
16 them together.

17 So if you pick them up and you walk away from the
18 truck, you've got the mask -- you can't use the thing
19 if you don't have the mask. Everybody has their own,
20 and I had mine. My coat would have been hanging on a
21 nail or standing up, just standing -- it's got a lot of

1 junk in the pockets and stuff. I could very easy just
2 set it there, lean it up against the wall and it would
3 stay there like an old pair of pants that somebody
4 hadn't washed for two years.

5 So that's where they were. And once again, the
6 helmet and the sock hood that I wore later was, I
7 always keep it in the top of my boots and the pants
8 were folded down.

9 So I was going to put them on. The first thing I
10 do is put the sock hood on. Normally I would step into
11 the boots, pull the pants up, put the suspenders on,
12 pull the sock hood up over top of my head and make sure
13 that it's down, put the coat on over top of that and
14 then pull the sock hood down.

15 What this thing does is protects your neck and
16 kind of isolates you a little bit more from a serious
17 situation. Racecar drivers use them.

18 [REDACTED]: Right.

19 [REDACTED] You've probably seen them before.

20 [REDACTED] Mm-hmm, yes, I have seen them.

21 [REDACTED] How you doing?

1 [REDACTED] Oh, we're doing good.

2 [REDACTED] Like I say, at this point I was
3 pretty much in a gopher mode, and I was just doing
4 anything I could do to stay busy. By this time I think
5 when I helped carry this guy with my left arm -- my
6 right arm, I was aware that there was something, my
7 left arm or something about it was not working like I
8 thought it should.

9 And then later on when I went to -- I could not
10 unscrew the hose from the connection on the side of the
11 truck so that I could completely separate the hose from
12 the fire truck and take it out of that compartment.

13 So I ended up using a wrench, an expanded wrench,
14 and loosening it up and then I unscrewed it and then I
15 drug the first one out in about three different -- and
16 then I got a couple of GIs to help me. I did the
17 second one also, but I had the GIs just pick up the
18 hose in a bundle and carry it out to the helipad out by
19 the engine and lay it there.

20 So that's how -- and then everything else I was
21 able to just carry them in my arms to carry them.

1 [REDACTED] Right.

2 [REDACTED] And then, this is pretty much what I
3 did from then on up until the time of the second
4 collapse warning. So they moved us back and then we
5 waited maybe for, I don't know, a while, ten minutes.
6 And then we moved back and continued to put water on
7 the fire and do what we could.

8 And there were people carrying -- there were GIS
9 carrying five gallon foam cans out of the firehouse and
10 carrying them out to the crash truck so that we could
11 replenish the foam that was going to be used off of the
12 -- or not the crash truck but out to our first engine
13 in there, that would be rescue engine 161.

14 And we must have had like 65 gallon -- that would
15 be like 3,000 gallons of foam. That would be 300, I'm
16 sorry, 300 gallons of concentrated liquid foam, which
17 is mixed with water at about a 3 percent solution or
18 so.

19 When we moved back the second time we were all
20 like in a -- we were out by the guardrail and Gilroy
21 was there and I think all the crews were, we were all

1 right there together. There was about 10 or 12 or 15
2 of us. And [REDACTED] is talking and I guess he finally
3 realizes that I'm not, I don't know what it is, and he
4 said, "Are you all right?" and I said, "No, I don't
5 think I am."

6 And [REDACTED] I think said, "I think Al got
7 quite a bit of smoke." And then [REDACTED] asked me was I
8 okay and I said, "No, I don't think I am." And he
9 said, "What's wrong with you?" And I said, "I'm
10 burned."

11 So they started to take my fire coat off. And
12 [REDACTED] was the same -- and [REDACTED] incidentally, his
13 injuries to his arms were almost identical to mine. So
14 they took my fire coat off and I said, "Hey, be careful
15 with my arm here. My damn arm might even be broke."

16 So then they began to check my head and arm and
17 doing all this stuff. And I said, "Yeah, that's okay.

18 That's okay." And they moved my arm or something and
19 then I realized that it was up here, it was in my
20 shoulder area, not my arm.

21 And then I began to -- then the burns were, they

1 weren't very much. They were, you know, both arms were
2 red and this one was really scratched up. I had a big
3 scrape on my stomach and a scrape on my chin from where
4 I went sailing under the truck I believe, I would
5 imagine.

6 So pretty much after that point there [REDACTED] and I
7 were just about taken about of the picture. They put
8 us in the med unit, an Arlington medic unit. The
9 fellows there put wet dressings on my arms and I think
10 [REDACTED]. And they took us back to the triage area and
11 dropped us off there. We were like the least -- we
12 would have been classified as the lease wounded.

13 So we were there for probably two hours or two and
14 a half hours, at which time we started -- we ran into
15 the people who were in the control tower. And I had
16 completely forgotten about them. It never occurred to
17 me that they were -- I never once thought about them.

18 Fortunately, they weren't seriously injured. But
19 there was two people there, a young woman who I don't
20 believe had any physical injuries, and a young man who
21 had cuts and burns to his hand just like [REDACTED] and I

1 did. So the three of us were wrapped up. The young
2 lady was okay.

3 And [REDACTED], our third man, apparently had
4 twisted his ankle sometime during all this event. So I
5 don't think [REDACTED] was taken to the hospital, certainly
6 not with [REDACTED] and I. We ended up while we were in the
7 triage area we started talking to some of the medical
8 people and answering questions.

9 And then pretty soon we started being interviewed
10 by people with gold badges on their belts. I don't
11 know who the hell they were, FBI, or I just don't know
12 who they were. And I think all of us talked to
13 somebody individually. And we all ended up getting
14 somebody's business card. I think I got a couple of
15 them.

16 Eventually [REDACTED] and I were taken along with about
17 six or seven -- I think there was eight of us in the
18 truck. A medic unit, a transport unit, took [REDACTED] and
19 myself and six other people. One guy was on a cot. I
20 guess the rest of them were seated in the vehicles, big
21 vehicles. They took us to Arlington Hospital where we

1 were -- they washed our arms and checked us out. We
2 were there -- I think they took an x-ray of [REDACTED] They
3 didn't take one of me.

4 And we ended up probably being in the hospital for
5 about an hour and a half. We commandeered a security
6 officer there who, 'the guy was running hospital
7 security I would say, asked him if he couldn't figure
8 out a way to get us back to Fort Myer. And he was able
9 to find one of his people there who had a Jeep, and she
10 took [REDACTED] and I back to Fort Myer.

11 And they dropped us off down here at the bottom of
12 the hill because the traffic was all backed up, as you
13 can imagine. The girl turned the Jeep around and went
14 back to the hospital and [REDACTED] and I walked in the gate,
15 the right gate, and we got a ride to the top of the
16 hill.

17 [REDACTED] Right.

18 [REDACTED] That's pretty much it. How's that?

19 [REDACTED] That's pretty good. *A couple
20 of questions though. When you got the phone call from
21 your captain were you in the process of doing some

1 preparations in case there was anything beforehand?

2 [REDACTED] No.

3 [REDACTED] Just --

4 [REDACTED]. The reason I had moved the fire
5 truck outside -- I had done this also the day before.
6 One of the problems -- I don't think I mentioned this
7 and you may not be aware of this. President Bush had
8 left the heliport the day before. He was returning on
9 Tuesday about noon. Tuesday was the day of the
10 attacks.

11 One of the problems that you run into -- it's
12 always been an annoyance to me and as far as I'm
13 concerned it is a problem, when you see -- when we have
14 these important standby's like President or Vice
15 President or visiting heads of state -- you've got to
16 quit?

17 [REDACTED] No, go on. I'm just checking
18 to see how much time we have left. You're fine, go
19 ahead.

20 [REDACTED] Okay. One of the problems you have
21 is you have all these Secret Service vehicles in there.

1 And, of course, they all think they have to be there.
2 And there always seems to be a lot of confusion there.
3 And there's always more people there than needs to be,
4 and there's people around the helicopter when the
5 rotors are turning that do not need to be anywhere near
6 it.

7 If anything would ever happen and one of those
8 rotors would come off of there or something or anything
9 else, I mean, these people, number one, are in the way.

10 They take the chance of being ran over by an emergency
11 vehicle. Number two, if it happened to be something
12 like a rotor, I mean, they could very easily be killed.

13 The press people, I wouldn't think twice about it
14 if one of them got chopped in half. Whoever hears this
15 that's just the way I feel about it. However, it's
16 always annoyed me that they have these young Marines
17 standing out there for no reason.

18 That helicopter pilot is capable of landing an
19 airplane. He doesn't need a Marine out there. There's
20 no need for that young man to be there. And I'm sure
21 he's just there because somebody has told him to be

1 there. I think that should be changed.

2 So anyway, one of the things we have had problems
3 with before is if you don't get the fire truck out of
4 the fire station and put it in an area where you can
5 use it or it's in an area where you can respond, you're
6 going to find yourself blocked in with three or four
7 Secret Service vehicles.

8 And as it has happened in the past, nobody seems
9 to know who's driving the one that's parked, you know,
10 that has to be moved first. So that was the biggest
11 reason that I had pulled the fire truck out of the
12 station and backed it just like this and backed it back
13 to the Pentagon.

14 There was about 20 or so feet of space between the
15 right side of the fire truck and the apparatus doors of
16 the Pentagon firehouse. That way at least the fire
17 truck is not, you know, and if we would have gotten it
18 blocked in then we would have had to move these
19 vehicles, pull the fire truck out and put it in an
20 appropriate place. It's just something that I
21 anticipated.

1 A week or so before this I was down there and we
2 had a young Secret Service fellow and he asked us a few
3 questions. He said, "You guys see any problems?" And
4 I mentioned these things to him. And he said, "Oh, our
5 people never park their vehicles in front of your fire
6 truck."

7 So the day before I was sitting in the fire truck
8 with my camera. Here comes one of those big, black
9 carry-alls, pulls right up in front of the fire truck.
10 And I take the camera. I got a picture of the damn
11 guy's license plate. You can see the wiper blade on
12 the fire truck. And, of course, you can see -- I think
13 -- I don't think you can see anything else other than
14 the front of the fire truck. But they do park there,
15 okay? So --

16 ████████████████████ Are they going to put the fire
17 station back where it was?

18 ████████████████████ I haven't heard anything more about
19 that. Right now that building is being used as a
20 contractor's trailer where they keep the blueprint
21 tables and stuff like that. I've heard that the

1 building is not going to be salvageable as far as being
2 inhabited, especially the upper floor.

3 VOICE: Hey, Big Al?

4 [REDACTED] Hey, buddy?

5 VOICE: The doctor's office is on the phone.

6 (Off the record.)

7 [REDACTED]: -- you say?

8 [REDACTED]: Firehouse. I can't tell you what
9 they're going to do with the building. I've heard that
10 they think it's salvageable and then later on they
11 thought no it's not.

12 One of the comments that is worth me remembering,
13 I guess after the engineers got in there and began to
14 look at the building and the damage to the Pentagon as
15 well as the damage to the firehouse, the firehouse was
16 trashed. The cabinets in it come down off the walls.
17 [REDACTED] was almost at the extreme end of the
18 firehouse, and the damn ceiling came down on him. The
19 ductwork came down. The heater came down. The fire
20 alarms, the strobe lights were going off and buzzing.
21 The power was out of the building. The firehouse was

1 trashed.

2 One of the comments that one of the engineers made
3 regarding the position of the fire truck, if it had not
4 been parked where I parked it, not because I parked it
5 there, but if it had not been parked where it was, they
6 feel that the firehouse would have been leveled.

7 I always felt that if the fire truck hadn't had
8 been where it was at the time of the impact of the
9 crash of the attack, that at very lease the three
10 people in the firehouse -- ██████████ who was in the
11 firehouse and the other two people who were in the
12 control tower would have been more seriously injured.

13 And I would certainly not disagree with this
14 fellow's estimate that the firehouse would have been
15 leveled. And if that was the case, I just don't think
16 that the three of them would have survived. We would
17 have been -- ██████████ and I might have -- if the fire truck
18 hadn't have been there, about the only other option
19 would have been still in the station or Mark and I
20 would have been in it someplace. If it wasn't where I
21 had it and it wasn't in the fire station, then chances

1 are [REDACTED] and I would have been in it and we would have
2 been doing something.

3 That meant that the firehouse would have been much
4 more damaged, as we mentioned. However, the fire truck
5 might have been completely salvageable at that point.
6 We may have been able to put the agent and foam, water
7 and foam, on the fire.

8 It may not have saved any lives, but I do feel
9 that it would have -- being able to be on top of it
10 that fast we would have been able to make a big
11 difference in how fast the fire was spread. You know,
12 we would have been able to cool a lot of stuff quick.

13 And -- but then again, in so many of these
14 scenarios that I've somewhat concocted myself later on,
15 a couple of days later, all pointed back to the fact
16 that the fire truck needed to be where it was at the
17 time of the attack or we all might have been killed. I
18 mean, we have some pretty good pictures of it. And you
19 may not have seen them, but I'll make sure that you see
20 this before and after picture before you leave here.

21 [REDACTED] Okay.

1 [REDACTED] It shows the nice, new shiny fire
2 truck in the top, and down at the bottom you see the
3 ground is completely littered with debris from the
4 aircraft, tiny pieces of metal I guess everywhere. And
5 the whole driver's side of the truck is just
6 pulverized, burned. The back end of it was crushed.

7 They believe that the tip of the wing actually hit
8 the back of the fire truck, went on up and hit the
9 building and then bounced off the building and hit the
10 fire station. And the magnolia tree behind the fire
11 station in the nice, new picture has nice, pretty green
12 leaves on it. Now, it's just an old, black tree there,
13 you know.

14 All this stuff was on fire when we were working
15 there. The black top was on fire and a lot of this
16 metal was on fire. The fire truck was -- the back end
17 of the fire truck was blazing. I told this story to
18 the boys back in Ohio when I went back there, some of
19 the gang I went to school with. And they compared it
20 to -- they --

21 (End of tape 1, side A.)

1 [REDACTED]: So you were talking about your
2 boys back in Ohio.

3 [REDACTED] Oh, yeah. [REDACTED] (phonetic) is a
4 pretty rough fellow, a heathen looking guy. When I
5 drew these sketches of this he said, "My God" he said,
6 "if you could have got that" -- my brother said, my
7 brother [REDACTED] said, "Man, I guess that would have
8 really been good if you could have got that fire truck
9 moved and got in there and done what you wanted to do
10 with it." He said, "That really might have made a
11 difference." And I said, "Well, I always felt that it
12 would have made some difference."

13 And [REDACTED] said, "Yeah, I can just picture that
14 damn fire truck being on fire like that and blazing in
15 the back." And I had already mentioned that the wheels
16 were like this. You can see that in the pictures.

17 However, it didn't mean that the damn thing
18 wouldn't go. It just -- I didn't know until I tried
19 it. And I didn't have any hesitation at all about
20 jumping back in that damn truck. But [REDACTED] said, he
21 said, "Hell, if you could have got that thing" he said,

1 "I can just see you now pulling that thing out, the
2 back end of it blazing, the smoke blowing off of it."

3 He said, "You would have looked like something out
4 of [REDACTED] or one of them kind of them damn tires going
5 around and, you know, the tires are going around like
6 this."

7 [REDACTED]: Yeah, oscillating.

8 [REDACTED]: Yeah, like they do in the Three
9 Stooges movies and shit, you know. That was a cute
10 comment. I remember that.

11 Like I say, if we could have done that I do think
12 that it would have made a difference in how fast the
13 fire spread because we would have been able to cool so
14 much that was still concentrated in an area.

15 I mean, there would have been some fires going out
16 through there. But a situation like that I think the
17 water would have been more beneficial than the foam,
18 just the fact that you can cool so much. That's what
19 puts out those kind of fires is lower the temperature
20 of what has potential to burn. I'll say this.

21 I would say that 60 percent of the fuel on that

1 particular aircraft, and it was a Boeing 757, is
2 probably carried in the wings. I know that a lot of
3 the fuel was probably consumed on the outside of the
4 building when the wings slapped up against the
5 building.

6 I'm sure that a lot of the fuel was probably
7 projected into the building through the first floor
8 windows there. But then again, a lot of it -- a lot of
9 those windows were still intact down through there.
10 And so maybe a lot of the fuel was expended on the
11 outside of the building. That possibly might have been
12 a blessing, you know?

13 It would have made a big difference in the
14 intensity of the fire inside. If that thing would have
15 gone on through there with we'll say -- I'm just
16 guessing, I would say that thing probably carries
17 12,000 gallons of fuel loaded. And they were going
18 from Dulles to San Francisco I think, something like
19 that. I'm just guessing. I'd say that's 12,000 would
20 be about 40,000 pounds of fuel. Is that right?

21 : I'm not sure --

1 [REDACTED] No, that's not right. That's not
2 right.

3 [REDACTED] -- what the weight of the --
4 [REDACTED] We always figured 6.6 per gallon.
5 So every thousand would be 6,600 pounds. It doesn't
6 matter.

7 [REDACTED] Right. That would be
8 66,000 --

9 [REDACTED] Pretty close to 72,000.

10 [REDACTED] 72,000.

11 [REDACTED] Yeah, 60/70,000. I'm just guessing.

12 I don't even know what the fuel capacity of the damn
13 thing is. I'm just guessing. I know the 135 tankers
14 when they were -- they had the capacity to hold 31.6
15 thousand. KC-10 holds almost 50,000.

16 [REDACTED] But don't they have a -- is
17 that the wings or just their reserve tank?

18 [REDACTED] That's everything.

19 [REDACTED] Everything?

20 [REDACTED] Yeah. Those things -- those 135
21 tankers were designed to be able to empty all the fuel

1 off of them. And then to refuel like on this type of
2 thinking that this SAC (phonetic) warfare back in the
3 '60s in the cold war era.

4 Two of these 135 tankers were designed to refuel
5 B-52s and send them to Russia. And when the 135s were
6 out of fuel, the 135s went down. That was the end of
7 them. That was the way the mission was concocted
8 supposedly. I don't think that ever happened. We used
9 to work with 135 tankers. It was a nice airplane to
10 work in. It was clean. It was relatively easy to get
11 into.

12 We had several emergencies. We had one before I
13 started working where we they had a SAC alert one
14 morning and two of them ran into each other. Just like
15 this, they were coming out of the pits and one of them
16 was turning like this and the other one comes out.

17 And his wing -- the wing of one, the left wing of
18 one, slices through the avionics panel, which is up on
19 the flight deck. And the two planes were actually
20 hooked together and still moving. And a guy named
21 [REDACTED], a young Air Force captain, eventually died.

1 He was from our area. I didn't know him.

2 I ended up knowing wife. She turned out to be a
3 witch I guess. She had about four husbands and all of
4 them were dead. I guess she can't find anybody to
5 marry her. [REDACTED]. She's a hell of an
6 artist too. Yeah. Yeah, I guess that's -- can you
7 think of anything else, to answer your question that
8 you asked?

9 [REDACTED] Is there anything you learned
10 in this experience that you think --

11 [REDACTED] Well --

12 [REDACTED] -- would be valuable to --

13 [REDACTED] -- I never doubted that at any time
14 I could be in a serious situation. I mean, I could
15 have been just as easily injured and more seriously
16 injured in a house fire, you know, working in -- I
17 mean, these are the things that go along with the job.
18 I never doubted.

19 I never thought that something like this wouldn't
20 happen to me because we worked at Fort Myer and we
21 don't have a lot of fires. And that's typical for

1 Armed Forces installations. They do not have a lot of
2 fires. This is a little different situation.

3 I always felt that when I come to work -- I get
4 here early, I get here at 5:30 in the morning. When
5 I'm on that truck I've got -- everything that I'm going
6 to have with me on that truck is on that truck, mask,
7 extra clothes, extra gloves, a small tool kit,
8 everything, names tags, everything that I need is on
9 that fire truck.

10 And this is the way I do it every time. As a
11 matter of fact, I think I had mentioned to [REDACTED] and
12 [REDACTED] "Be sure and put your name tags" -- I said to
13 [REDACTED] "Make sure you take your name tags with you."
14 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and I, all three, had our nametags on
15 this card, it's called a passport, on the dash of the
16 truck. What these things -- there's two of them.
17 They're both scotch -- not scotch -- that sticky stuff,
18 you know?

19 [REDACTED] Velcro?

20 [REDACTED] Velcro. If we had an incident and I
21 would have been a little bit more composed, I would

1 have taken this thing and given it to either, whoever
2 was in charge. It could have been one of our people
3 like [REDACTED] or it could have been a chief from
4 Arlington or Alexandria or National Airport or whoever
5 else was in there.

6 But I could have given this thing. It has the
7 names of three fire fighters that are identified as
8 Fort Myer and what vehicle they're on. It's Foam 161,
9 me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. And that guy knows
10 that he has got these three people available to him.
11 There's two of them, two of those things.

12 I think -- well anyway, they both end up at the
13 command post. And that's how they keep track of people
14 on the fire ground. Everybody around here has them,
15 Arlington, Alexandria, everyone. They have some sort
16 of system like that.

17 But I take this serious. I knew that we work with
18 a variety of products. We work with, you know, the
19 potential for a fire, building collapse. We work like
20 with Arlington Cemetery where we have large groups of
21 people. You know, I take this serious. I try and keep

1 that frame of mind when I'm here. Yeah, I'm sure I
2 learned a lot of things about this.

3 Once again, I had mentioned I'm the oldest guy
4 here. I'm 55 years old. I'm in pretty good shape. I
5 run and walk every day quite a bit, you know, from here
6 to the Capitol building and back. I like being out. I
7 enjoy talking to people. I think it's probably
8 necessary -- it's a necessary activity for my
9 personality. It's just easy for me to do.

10 [REDACTED]: And one more question. Is
11 there anything that you have changed differently in
12 your job here since that happened? Do you realize that
13 maybe if I would have done this differently or if we
14 would have set something else up differently it might
15 be more efficient or better?

16 [REDACTED] I can think of several things that I
17 was surprised that I didn't think of at the time. A
18 moment ago I mentioned about the ladders. You know,
19 just the fact that I thought of them, that was okay.
20 And the reason that thinking came to an end was because
21 I was thinking there are no ladders on that fire truck.

1 And that's the case, there's no room for them.
2 However, again, there's two ladders in the fire
3 station.

4 Another thing that I thought we could have done,
5 [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] or I could have ran into the fire
6 station, got the keys to the van. We could have used
7 the van as a vehicle to transport these people from
8 right there at the apparatus doors of the fire station
9 all the way out to the guardrail and then drive back.
10 You know, we could have moved people like that. I
11 don't know how much that would have helped. Would it
12 have -- I don't know if it would have helped or not.

13 Another thing that I did not think of at that
14 time, right there on the corner of the fire station,
15 less than 20 feet from the Pentagon, is an outside
16 spigot with about 75 feet of garden hose. We have 100
17 pound water pressure down there at that facility. It
18 never occurred to me to use that garden hose.

19 Now, these situations may not occur in a lifetime,
20 but these were things that I thought of later. These
21 were the things that we didn't do. You think, "Well,

1 what the hell, you know, you just had, you know, 10,000
2 gallons of jet fuel crash into the side of the building
3 there, you know, what do you think you're going to do
4 with a garden hose?"

5 Well, I know that I could have -- like after I got
6 done with those fire extinguishers -- I know I could
7 have put out some of the fire in that area. It could
8 very well be that someone else is coming on into that
9 area after the fact and would have had a better chance
10 of getting out of that area possibly.

11 But just the fact that the garden hose was right
12 there, it never crossed my mind to use that garden
13 hose. It could have well been that the garden hose was
14 full of holes as a result of being hit with this flying
15 debris.

16 But it never crossed -- and it was right there
17 behind us all the time rolled up 15 feet away from us.

18 It never occurred to me to use it. It might not have
19 made any difference. These are just, you know, there's
20 nothing wrong with having feelings like this.

21 It's just some more of the ammunition you can add

1 to your list of experiences down the road. One of
2 these days you might run into a situation or think of
3 something else and it may be beneficial to you.

4 [REDACTED] Next time you think, "Oh,
5 there is a garden hose here somewhere."

6 [REDACTED] Yeah. Another thing is I could have
7 -- we could have got the keys to that van. I could
8 have designated. And we had many people. I could have
9 designated somebody to drive that van and I could have
10 been doing something else. I never was in a mode where
11 I was directing people.

12 There just wasn't any -- it just wasn't -- I just
13 think, I don't know, it never occurred to me to be
14 running things or telling people what to do. The only
15 people I told to do something initially were a couple
16 of girls to help walk these people out away from the
17 building because I did not -- I felt that I didn't have
18 time to walk them out there. And I was more beneficial
19 being back here beside the building trying to help lift
20 these people out of the window.

21 [REDACTED]: Do you think -- everything was

1 happening so fast. Did you think you had time to go in
2 and get the ladder or go find the garden hose and test
3 it or what not? I mean, everything was happening so
4 quickly.

5 [REDACTED]: Yeah. The ladders, I only thought
6 of the ladders that one time. I did not realize they
7 were in the fire station until an hour or two later,
8 maybe three or four hours later, but they were in the
9 fire station.

10 But then again, it was never brought to my
11 attention either by somebody else or by a possible
12 victim that somebody needed to get out of the building
13 from any of the upper floors. I just don't remember
14 that. And I mentioned this one of the other guys and
15 they said, "You know, I don't remember anybody saying
16 they were on the upper floors trying to get out of the
17 building."

18 [REDACTED] Where did the plane actually
19 strike the building at, which floor did it strike it
20 at?

21 [REDACTED] It went right through the first

1 floor windows, yeah. You see where the hole is where
2 the big hole is now?

3 [REDACTED]. Right.

4 [REDACTED] There's been quite a bit of debris
5 down there. I'll draw you a sketch of thing if we can
6 find something. You've got a pencil? The building
7 looked like this. And these will be the angles on it
8 here. The firehouse was right about like that. The
9 van was parked right about here like that. There's a
10 door that goes in the firehouse here. This is the
11 apparatus door. There's a concrete pad that comes out
12 like this. And I had pulled the fire truck out like
13 this --

14 [REDACTED] Mm-hmm.

15 [REDACTED] -- and backed it in right along that
16 edge right there just like that. And that was the fire
17 truck. There were two other passenger vehicles over
18 here that belonged to people in the control tower. The
19 control tower sits here like this up on top of the
20 building.

21 [REDACTED] Right.

1 [REDACTED] The glass building was like this.

2 [REDACTED]: Oh, I've been down to the
3 building already. I went through it.

4 [REDACTED]: Something like that. Something like
5 that.

6 [REDACTED]: Right.

7 [REDACTED] The aircraft actually hit -- it was
8 probably right about -- when I saw it, it was right
9 about here. It was coming at about a 45 degree angle
10 to the building and it hit right about here. Mark and
11 I had been back here again working here. The garden
12 hose is right there.

13 The ladders were -- as a matter of fact, I even
14 moved the ladders that morning and swept underneath
15 them, the big one, the big ladder. The other ladder
16 you can just pick it up and move it. [REDACTED] and I had
17 walked up like this and we were somewhere in front of
18 this line right here, okay, this line right here.
19 Because if we had been back here we couldn't have seen
20 it. We never heard the airplane until after we had
21 seen it.

1 And the first thing I remember hearing was the
2 noise of the engines, what I could imagine were the
3 engines. It was a loud, scary, terrible noise, yeah.
4 And then I guess I do remember -- because I remember
5 saying to myself, "Well, now the damn plane has hit the
6 building."

7 Because I heard then it was the crash. I cannot
8 tell you how loud it was or what it sounded like. I
9 cannot remember that now. And that was one of the
10 things that very quickly seemed to fade from my
11 memories.

12 But anyway, the helipad is like, let's see, it's
13 kind of like that. It goes over this way, comes out
14 this way. There's a big "H" on it like that. And then
15 this is north. And so when [REDACTED] took off he ran out
16 this way. When I took off I ran straight up along here
17 like that. I got -- I mean, I thought I was on fire
18 before I ever got to the van. That's when I hit the
19 ground. And I thought, "Well shit, this is a good
20 place to duck under, under here."

21 Like I say, there seemed to be a lot -- there was

1 a lot of pressure and there was a lot of heat. And I
2 don't know if it was just hot air or, you know, I feel
3 that's probably what it was or the fireball. I do not
4 feel that it was a big blast of like maybe 100 to 200
5 gallons of jet fuel engulfing me. I never thought
6 that. I never thought I would die. I did think, "My
7 God, are we going to burn up?"

8 But I didn't think I was going to die. So I ran
9 out of the front of the van. [REDACTED] is out here
10 somewhere. I ran over to him, talked to him and then
11 ran right back to the fire truck. I would say within
12 20 seconds of the time the plane hit the building I had
13 that fire truck running. And that's pretty much what
14 it looked like.

15 [REDACTED]: When it hit the building there
16 did it damage the floors above the first level --

17 [REDACTED] Yeah.

18 [REDACTED] -- at that time?

19 [REDACTED]: Yeah, I'm sure it did. But there
20 was a lot of people working in areas above that that
21 were not -- I think most of the people that were killed

1 were killed on the first floor. I -- don't quote me on
2 that.

3 [REDACTED] Yeah. Are you done with this?

4 [REDACTED] Yeah, I'm done, done with all this.

5 [REDACTED] Can I have that --

6 [REDACTED] Oh, yeah.

7 [REDACTED]: -- that diagram?

8 [REDACTED] Yeah, I'll make a good one for you
9 if you want it. Like I say, I ran out to here. I
10 don't remember [REDACTED] moving until I got out to him. He
11 was pretty well stunned I think by all this. And just
12 like -- I think we all were.

13 But I cannot tell you how pleased I am I think
14 with the way that everything went, what we as a crew
15 were able to do, the three of us, what we were able to
16 do as individuals, you know. And first of all, all
17 three of us pretty much -- what we did I guess to
18 survive this and then be able to continue on and be of
19 some value after the fact, after the crash.

20 And then all the work that our people did when we
21 had the other companies arriving in here. I mean, this

1 stuff -- this is an exciting thing to be involved in.
2 If a house fire, an auto fire, an auto wreck where
3 you're working with the stuff that you've trained for.
4 And, you know, you enjoy being in a position to help
5 people.

6 Even if -- almost in every situation you're going
7 to be in a position to do something to help somebody.
8 And I'm just still I think overwhelmed with everything
9 that we were all able to do. I'm just -- that's how I
10 feel about it. I hope that helps.

11 [REDACTED]: Okay. Is there anything else
12 you'd like to add?

13 [REDACTED]: Nah, that's good. Good enough for
14 you?

15 (The interview was concluded.)

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