

**Naval Historical Center
Oral Interview Summary Form**

Interviewers:

Capt Gary Hall
Capt Michael McDaniel

Interviewer's Organization:

Naval Historical Center
Naval Historical Center

Interviewee:

CDR Kevin P. Miller

Current Address:

████████████████████
████████████████████
(w) OPNAV N512Z
(Warfare Policy & Doctrine)

Date of Interview:

8 Mar 02

Place of Interview:

Pentagon

Number of Cassettes:

One

Security Classification:

Unclassified

Name of Project: Pentagon Terrorist Attack Incident

Subject Terms/Key Words: Pentagon; Terrorist Attack; 11 September 2001; Pentagon evacuation; CACO; Joint Family Assistance Center; Reconstitution

Abstract of Interview:

Interviewee Information: CDR Miller is a third generation Naval officer. His grandfather was a Civil Engineer Corps Lieutenant during World War II in the Pacific theater. His father retired as a Captain in 1983. He was also a Civil Engineer Corps Officer. CDR Miller went to the University of Mississippi and was commissioned through NROTC in 1981. He was stashed at the Naval Military Personnel Command at the Navy Annex and was able to ride to work with his father, who worked at the time in the Pentagon. After six months he attended flight school. He started in A-7's at Cecil Field in 1984. Then he was an FA-18 FRS instructor in the late 1980's with VFA 106. He was a CAG LSO with Carrier Air Wing Seven aboard the *USS Eisenhower* in the early 1990's. A Department Head tour with VFA 131 was next. He did a joint tour with First Air Force Continental NORAD Region at Tyndall Air Force Base from 1994-96. An Executive Officer and Commanding Officer tour of VFA 105 at Cecil Field followed in 1997-99. From there he went to the Naval War College. He has worked at the Pentagon for 1-1/2 years in OPNAV 512 Warfare Policy and Doctrine. He is the Strike Warfare Policy and Doctrine Officer. His primary role is to be the action officer on Strike Warfare issues as they relate to the joint doctrine publications. He is also the action officer for the Navy/Air Force War fighter talks, an annual high level conference.

Topics Discussed:

On 11 Sep his office space was on the fourth deck off the third corridor in the D ring. They had been in the spaces about one month. Prior to that they had been in the E ring off the fifth corridor across from N7 headquarters.

Someone came into their spaces and told them about a plane flying into the World Trade Center. They went into the Political Advisor Officer's office and watched the television coverage. CDR Miller had been thinking it was a small commuter plane in bad weather until he watched the television. He returned to his desk and then was told another plane flew into another World Trade Center tower. He looked at his boss, Capt Sean O'Brien and said, "This means war". He thought, "We're next".

His first sensation was the shock wave followed by the room and furniture rattling. He knew what had happened and sensed where it had hit. They knew they had to evacuate. It was a controlled evacuation with no hysterics or screaming. Leaving the building was like leaving a major sporting event. They turned everything off and he grabbed his bag and cover. It took about five minutes to make sure everyone was out. Someone who had been outside ran back in and told them about seeing the fireball.

They went to the A ring and the second deck. Some people were going into the center courtyard but they wanted to go out to the parking lot and away from the building. He remembers thinking there were two in New York, when's the next one going to hit us. When he got to A ring he looked down the fourth corridor and saw gray smoke. He saw a friend and was glad he was okay. There was chaos on the second deck and they were looking for guidance. They would normally go out the second corridor exit to South Parking but were directed to go toward the mall down first corridor. The Pentagon security people were directing them, some knew what to do, and some were clueless.

They got outside and looked back to the building and he saw the black smoke of an aviation fire. They got to the perimeter of the parking lot and started to look for people from their shop. No one said let's meet at South Parking or wherever. Some people got in their cars in North Parking and they didn't see them until the next day. They looked up and saw a fighter overhead circling at about 3 or 5000 feet. He thought it was a Hornet but it was probably an F-15. They walked west along the parking lot perimeter and he had the impression the fire wasn't caused by a large aircraft.

They found ADM McGinn (N7). There were cops and chaos. There was an Army officer in a shredded uniform and no cover. Then they heard the third and fourth floors collapse. It was a muffled thump. They didn't know what it was and thought it was another bomb. This was about 20 minutes after the initial impact. ADM McGinn told them to disperse. They saw a cop who told them there was another plane inbound and to get out.

Capt O'Brien had a car so four of them jumped in the car. They got behind a cop with sirens and got out and down 395, which was gridlock. It took about 3 hours to get home to Fairfax. Halfway through the three-hour ride home he was able to reach his wife via cell phone. His children's schools released all children with parents at the Pentagon. When he got home his family was watching the images on television.

On the way home they saw another F16. Northbound 395 was closed except for police officers. They listened on the radio to what had happened in New York and that the World Trade Center towers had collapsed. The four of them started thinking about what it meant and how to fight it.

It was that night when he realized the plane had hit the Navy Command Center. Capt O'Brien called to tell him about the Command Center and asked him if he knew some names of who was there. Capt O'Brien came over and they went over the names of the missing. One of the names was Capt (sel) Bob Dolan the branch head of N513. They were trying to match names of those who were missing with those who knew them and were survivors to be escort officers. ADM Keating had directed that he wanted N3/N5 personnel involved. The Navy Yard would provide CACO's and N3/N5 people would be with the CACO to go to the family.

CDR Miller was assigned to the Dolan family. He was told he would get a call to come in and there would be something set up at the Navy Annex. They were to visit the families that night and it was then 2100. As an aviator he had experienced it before, but for some of the others it was uncommon. He never got a call that night so the next morning he called Capt O'Brien. Capt O'Brien told him where their new office in the Navy Annex would be and to stand by to come in there.

He then got a call from the Dolan family CACO who wanted to meet him to go over to see the family. They agreed to meet around 1400 at the Navy Annex with the chaplain. They went to the Dolan family house. Mrs. Dolan's brother is an active duty Captain who is Assistant Ops at the Naval Academy. He was there and became a great conduit. CDR Dolan's two children and wife were there as well as Mrs. Dolan's brother. She had been calling CDR Dolan's cell phone and getting rings, which meant to her it was still working. The CACO, CDR Rick Lance, told Mrs. Dunn he was officially missing.

It was about 10 days later that CDR Dolan was positively identified. During that time an FBI investigator, who was a Naval Academy graduate, found CDR Dolan's Academy ring. There were a series of memorial services and burials in N3/N5. CDR Miller personally lost about 7 people he knew in the Navy Command Center.

During this time the N3/N5 people were working out of the Navy Annex at a big table with some phones. Their job was to administer to those who were lost and to help the CACO's. Some reservists were brought in. The reservists wrote up the awards. They also had their normal N51 work to do. They were told not to worry about the joint pub stuff immediately. They wrote think pieces about how to use the forces. About 1000 he would go home to work on his own computer.

CDR Dolan's funeral was on 12 October, the day after the DOD Memorial Service at the Pentagon. It was at the Naval Academy chapel. The class of 1981 was having its 20th anniversary reunion that weekend and many members of the class came to show support. CDR Dolan wanted to be buried at sea. His wife didn't initially want that but relented. He was buried at sea from the *USS McInerney*. Capt Dave Thomas and Mrs. Dolan's brother accompanied CDR Dolan's remains aboard the *USS McInerney* while Mrs. Dolan stayed pier side.

CDR Dolan was a Captain select. Before he was buried he was promoted to Captain and buried as a Captain.

Abstracted by:
CDR Carol O'Hagan
27 Mar 02

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Interviewee Information:

CDR Miller is a third generation Naval officer. His grandfather was a Civil Engineer Corps Lieutenant during World War II in the Pacific theater. His father retired as a Captain in 1983. He was also a Civil Engineer Corps Officer. CDR Miller went to the University of Mississippi and was commissioned through NROTC in 1981. He was stashed at the Naval Military Personnel Command at the Navy Annex and was able to ride to work with his father, who worked at the time in the Pentagon. After six months he attended flight school. He started in A-7's at Cecil Field in 1984. Then he was an FA-18 FRS instructor in the late 1980's with VFA 106. He was a CAG LSO with Carrier Air Wing Seven aboard the *USS Eisenhower* in the early 1990's. A Department Head tour with VFA 131 was next. He did a joint tour with First Air Force Continental NORAD Region at Tyndall Air Force Base from 1994-96. An Executive Officer and Commanding Officer tour of VFA 105 at Cecil Field followed in 1997-99. From there he went to the Naval War College. He has worked at the Pentagon for 1½ years in OPNAV 512 Warfare Policy and Doctrine. He is the Strike Warfare Policy and Doctrine Officer. His primary role is to be the action officer on Strike Warfare issues as they relate to the joint doctrine publications. He is also the action officer for the Navy/Air Force War fighter talks, an annual high-level conference.

Topics Discussed:

Q. (04:38) Kevin tell us about September 11th. Kind of walk us through - first of all tell us where your space was. Describe where your space was and then tell us about your experiences that day.

A. We were over there on the 4th deck off the 3rd corridor and I don't remember the exact room number anymore, but it was in D ring, 4th deck, 3rd corridor. That's where the N51 spaces were.

We had been in those spaces for about a month, and before that we had been on the E ring just off the 5th corridor right across from N7 headquarters. In a very old space that was now going to be renovated as we moved into our new spaces. Like I said we had been there for about a month, month and a half.

Beautiful Day. It's a standard morning. One of the guys, AL, came in and said, "Hey, an airplane just flew into the World Trade Center," or you know, "You should see it. It's on TV," you know, "An aircraft just hit."

My first thought was how an aircraft had flown into the Empire State Building in, I think, 1940s. So we went to look. It was in the COLAD's (phonetic) office had a TV. We didn't have any TVs, so we all kind of crammed around his door looking there, and you could see the North Tower in flames. And it was a gorgeous day, just like it was in Washington and so you know my first thought was OK, bad weather. And a small commuter, probably out of Newark International had flown into it.

I'd flown a commuter out of Newark before and we flew right over down town New York on the way to Rhode Island, I was going on that particular trip. I was surprised how close we were to the buildings, probably a couple thousand feet, maybe three thousand feet. Great view of the city, so I thought, OK, well this could happen in bad weather. But it wasn't bad weather. So I at this

point had no concept of what was really occurring. So Wow! You know this is bad. How are they going to put out that fire?

So I went back to my desk and then a few minutes later one of the guys said, “Hey, another airplane just flew into the other tower. You can see it.”

CAPTAIN SEAN O’BRIEN, my boss you know, you know we just looked at each other in stunned silence and I remember saying, “This means war!” And I also remember thinking if not saying, “We’re next.”

So I went down and looked at the TV again and you could the second aircraft, you know we’ve all seen the pictures, going into the tower, and you know obviously a deliberate action. Just, you know we’re just kind of walking around stunned. At that point. OK what does this mean? Where is this coming from? You know I think we’re all thinking, radical Islam terrorists you know.

Who else has been hitting us the past several years? The same guys, *Cole* came to mind. Cobar Towers, etcetera.

So I’m sitting at my desk and just, I forget what I was working on at the time, but my first sensation was I think the shock wave, followed just a microsecond later by whooom, and just you know the room rattled, the furniture rattled and again you could feel the shock wave going through there, and instinctively knew what had happened to us. Just knew that an airplane had flown into the building, and sensed where it had hit. It turns out we’re about a hundred yards away from the impact point there, off the 4th corridor, but just, you know since I was facing in toward the courtyard, and so off to my left, I sensed that’s where the impact was and it was there. So we got up. We looked around. All of us were you know, we’re kind of looking at each other pretty stunned. I think instinctively knew that we had to get out of there, and had to evacuate.

CAPTAIN DELSO (phonetic) came through and said, “OK, turn off the computers. Let’s evacuate.”

It was a controlled evacuation. There was not, there’s no hysterics. There was no screaming. The whole, just leaving the building was like leaving a major sporting event. That was my impression.

We turned everything off and I grabbed my bag, my cover and I’m the shop XO, we kind of made a quick run through, make sure everyone got out of there. Took us about five minutes.

Meanwhile AL GEARISEKI (phonetic) who happened to have been outside, he had run back in and said, “Guys, I saw it. I saw the fireball!” And you know, kind of very excitedly gave us his account.

We, like I say, we got out of there within five minutes. Shut everything down, CAPT DELSO (phonetic) I recall was the last guy out, made sure the lights were off.

We worked our way down to the A ring, and down to the 2nd deck. Some people were going outside into the ground zero parking. We thought that’s not where we want to go. That’s just a mass of people there in the open. Let’s get outside into the parking lot and away from the building.

I remember thinking, OK, you know, two of them in New York, where’s the next one. Where’s it going to hit us? When is it going to hit us?

There were some women weeping as we were going out. As we got down to A ring I looked back toward the 4th corridor and I could see gray smoke down there. I saw a buddy of mine who worked at that time in N8. He also happens to be a neighbor, a former squadron mate actually.

And I saw he was OK. That’s good let’s go out that way.

We had gone to A ring, 2nd deck. There was kind of chaos. You know we were looking for guidance. We would have normally gone out the 2nd corridor, exit to South Parking, but we were directed to go toward the Mall, I guess down the, what's that, 1st corridor? So into the Mall and then out of the building there. We were just kind of following the group of people and there were some, you know the Pentagon security folks are directing us. Some knew what to do. Some were kind of clueless as we were, but we got out of the building and into South Parking.

Again a crystal blue day. I looked back and immediately saw the pall of black smoke, aviation fuel fed fire. Have seen that before and again no question that's a aviation fire, aviation fuel. So we got out on the perimeter of the parking lot and just kind of kept going, and then we just tried to look around and see familiar faces from our shop.

None of us got together and said, "OK, let's all meet at South Parking." Some guys went to the cars in North Parking and we didn't see them again until the next day, was we all got together. But a group of us, and I'm a bus rider, so I didn't really have you know anywhere to go. I just kind of went with the boss and some of the other guys, JEFF HUGHS and KEVIN ENNIS.

So we got out of there and we're looking around and looking up and seeing a fighter over head. My first thought, it was a Hornet. Had two tails. Looked like a Hornet. There's hornets based at Andrews. I'm a Hornet guy. It's probably three or five thousand feet which is obviously, it's circling, you know you don't see that everyday over downtown Washington. But it was probably an F-15. As you know you look back and read the accounts of what really happened. So saw that. We worked our way over to look at the western face of the building. So we walked west along the parking lot perimeter, and my impression was that the fire wasn't from, wasn't caused by a large aircraft. I couldn't imagine a 757, or 67 causing that fire. It was a fire, it was a hole, but it

didn't engulf the entire side. I would think a wide-body airliner would do that. That was my impression anyway. So maybe a smaller airliner flew into the building was my impression. We went back and we found ADMIRAL MCGINN. Just looking for some guidance, so there was three-star ADMIRAL MCGINN, N7 and he had some people around him, and OK, we'll just kind of hang out here and find out what we're supposed to be doing. There's cops everywhere, sirens, you can imagine and chaos. People with, I remember seeing an Army officer, his shirt was undone. He had no cover. Thinking, you know, he's out of uniform, but obviously you know he had been very close to the dangers and perhaps very lucky. Then we heard the third and fourth floors collapsed and it was, it was a muffled thump, and we were done, a bunch of us. We heard that thump, not knowing what it was. OK, maybe that's another bomb going off. You know later you realize with the timeline, that's the 3rd and 4th floors collapsing.

Q. (13:44) Do you remember about what time, how much time into that, that was?

A. We had been out in the parking lot, maybe ten minutes. So perhaps twenty minutes after the initial impact. ADMIRAL MCGINN at that point said, "Disperse." We're thinking, oh, there, here's, here's large, you know there's thousands of people out there. We're all in small groups. There's really no place to disperse to, except you know under 395 and into Crystal City, which some people did, and just started sort of walking and getting away from the building.

So one of us had a car nearby. At that point we saw a cop who said, "Hey, there's another plane inbound. Get out of here!"

So one of us had a car. It was CAPTAIN O'BRIEN, that's who it was. He had a car so four of us jumped in, and we got out of there. We were very close to his car. We were lucky because people

at that point were trying to scramble. We got behind the cop and just followed him and he's got the sirens going, and we're screaming down, we're right behind him. We got ourselves out. We wanted to head down 395 which now was gridlocked, and the others were, and so we're on a road, Army/Navy Country Club and we're going down there and we eventually get onto 395. It took about three hours to get home.

While we're in the parking lot, one of us passed around a cell phone so we're trying to call home. Those lines were jammed. Halfway through our odyssey, our three-hour odyssey home, one of the guys in the car had a cell phone. I was able to call home. My wife was in tears. She was out with a friend, the news, New York's been hit, and then a few minutes later the Pentagon's been hit. Her friends driving, you know knowing that [REDACTED] has a husband there. So she rushes her home. Unknown to me at the time, my kids had been taken out of their schools in Fairfax County. A loud speaker announcement was anyone with parents that work at the Pentagon, please come to the office. So they, they got the kids and said, "Hey, you guys can go home."

My mother –

Q. (15:43) How did they tell them? They told them after they got them to the office?

A. I don't really recall what they told them but –

Q. (15:454) Did they call home to make sure somebody was home before they sent them, I hope?

A. No. What happened was [REDACTED] got home soon. I'm sure the phone rang and my mother and father live two miles away and again they retired out of here, so we bought, so we rented to be near them. So she went to the schools and got the kids, my older boys and brought them home.

One of the neighbors came and got our four-year-old. Just took him out. She came in, swept him up and said, “Don’t worry about him.”

Anyway I was able to get through and then come home. When I got home my family was in the living room just watching images on TV. My son, [REDACTED], came up to me and gave me a hug. Of course, you know [REDACTED] was just you know still crying. You know the family had called and OK.

I’ll add this, that on the way home we saw another F-16 as we were you know creeping along with the other traffic. Northbound 395 was closed, except for cops screaming up there. Saw an F-16 and my impression was that that was from Langley, where they have an F-15 base. He was by himself.

We’re listening on the radio to what’s going on in New York and you know the south tower has collapsed and not long after that, north tower has collapsed. “Ladies and Gentlemen the World Trade Center is destroyed.” And it’s just, we’re just stunned. My God, the World Trade Center, you know. I’ve been there. Just incredible.

So we’re thinking, the four of us, were working N51 Strategy and Policy. Ok, what does this mean, you know, and how are we going to fight this?

Q. (17:51) When did you realize, obviously you were inside the building, you realized about where the plane had hit. When did you realize that it had hit the Command Center?

A. That night when – after I got home, you know, just - the phone ran from some old friends, some Navy buddies, “Hey,” you know, “Good to hear your voice,” and all that. Family members certainly, watching – I was exhausted. Just mentally drained and so after a few hours I just went

upstairs and the TV was on and just seeing the images, and it's just chaos, you know. What has happened? I just, you know, I just had to take a nap, and did for about an hour.

CAPTAIN O'BRIEN called around dinnertime and I think maybe, maybe it was after dinner.

Maybe it was dark. I can't recall. But he said, "Hey," you know, "Do you know these guys?"

Actually he said, "The Command Centers been hit." And I was asking do we know names.

He says, "Yeah, I know some names, but I don't want to pass them over the phone. There are some guys that are missing," He says, "Why don't I come over?" So he came over and sat down, and "Do you know this person? Do you know this person?"

"Yeah." One of the names was CAPTAIN BOB DOLAN, CAPT select BOB DOLAN and a friend, head of 513. They had decided, he and CAPT DELSO had been in touch and they were trying to match names with those that were missing and presumed dead with those of us that knew them and were survivors and to be escort officers. Not to be CACOs, but CAPT KEATING's, excuse me ADMIRAL KEATING's direction was he wanted N3/N5 personnel also involved. So the Navy Yard would be CACOs, but he wanted N3/N5 person there with the CACO to go to the family. So I was I was assigned to the DOLAN family.

Q. (20:07) How was that assignment made?

A. I think it was made by O'BRIEN and DELSO (phonetic), because you know, I was a peer.

You know we're the same air group, Air Group 81. The other guys in our office were assigned to like rank officers or people that they were friends with, You know that, you know BILL DONOVAN and JESS STRATTON are friends, so JEFF said I want to help the DONOVAN family in that instance.

I did not know the DOLAN family. We were there, we were ready to go. The word was that we're going to get the call to come in, and there's going to be something set up at the Navy Annex. So I had- and then we're going to go visit the families tonight. And now it's 9:30. CAPT. O'BRIEN had come over. We were talking, Just still shaking our heads in stunned disbelief about what had happened, but you know we knew what we had to do.

As an aviator I had experienced this before. Some of the other guys, even guys you know with my seniority this was, this was not common, but to lose a friend and to go to a family, and to know kind of what the drill is.

Q. (21:36) You had done that before?

A. Yes, I had not been a CACO before, but I certainly lost friends and as a squadron XO and CO, I got in the books and was ready for that if it were to happen to us, because it's common in, especially in tactical aviation. So I knew what needed to be done and about visits and the CACO process, but just also the bedside manner that you need with the family, and had been through that before.

So we, I got my white uniform ready. Ironed it, rigged it, you know ready to go at any time. Now it's you know midnight and "Ok, we'll call you. Expect a call in the wee hours, like two in the morning."

Ok, so I you know again got a catnap. That call never came. In the morning I called CAPT O'BRIEN said, "Hey you know, call didn't happen last night."

"Yeah, hey here's our new office. It's going to be in the Annex. Want you to," you know, "standby and to come in there."

Then I got a call from the CACO, the DOLAN family CACO, and he said, “Where should we meet.”

By now it’s late morning, you know, “Hey, we want to go over there. We ought to meet. Let’s go over there about two o’clock in the afternoon.”

“OK.” So I got on my whites and I went down to the Annex and met them there, with the Chaplain. Then we went to the DOLAN family house, and I followed them.

Q. (23:17) Who was the CACO?

(he apparently can’t remember)

Q. (another) Ok, we can get that.

A. I haven’t talked to him in the past several months. RICK LANCE, CDR RICK LANCE, I’m sorry. OK, so shall I continue with the visit to the DOLAN’s?

Q. Yeah.

A. They live in Alexandria. We got there. CAPT MARK TEMPESTELLY (phonetic) is █████ DOLAN’s brother, BOB DOLAN’s brother-in-law. Active Duty Captain. He’s the assistant OPS at the Naval Academy. So he’s there in civilian clothes. Identified himself right away. Turns out he’d just recently left the Pentagon. Very fortunate that a family member, you know active duty Captain and lives, he was you know, he was a great conduit. You know, we would call him in the coming days and weeks about issues, instead of you know burdening █████. And he knew when it was a good time to talk to █████ about these things.

Anyway went in the house. The DOLAN’s have two children. The oldest daughter’s fifteen. She, didn’t see her. Found out from MARK that she was kind of in denial. Nine year old boy, saw him

and he seemed to be holding up OK. ■■■■■ was, was in tears. Obviously had probably not slept. She, at this point BOB is missing. She had been calling his cell phone and getting rings on the cell phone. She says, you know, that means that the cell phone is still working. So she was getting rings and she wanted us to pass that information and knew where BOB was in the building. So did MARK.

The CACO, RICK LANCE said that he's officially missing. I introduced - the chaplain was there, and I introduced myself, or maybe they did, you know, "You know KEVIN MILLER here. He works with BOB."

■■■■■ perked up at that. Someone in there among the three of us, that knew her husband and told her "Yeah, I work with BOB." You know and we were there for maybe thirty minutes.

Then MARK took us outside and said, "Yeah, you guys," you know, "please, you're welcome to come back anytime."

Well in the coming weeks of course, we spent a lot of time there and on the phone with ■■■■■. It was I guess about a week then, it was about a week that BOB was positively identified. Maybe ten days. He was positively identified. Also in that time, BOB's academy ring had been found. Been found by an FBI investigator who happened to be a Naval Academy graduate himself. There was some rubble being taken out and as it's being, as it's walking past him, this box of rubble, he does a double take, and says, "Wait, wait what's this?" And so he reaches in there and pulls out the ring. Looks inside at the inscription, so he tracked it down and gave it to MARK TEMPESTELLY (phonetic) who presented it to ■■■■■.

That meant so much to her, because she wanted something. She wanted his devices, the ring, wedding ring, she you know, that was never found, but anyway she was overjoyed to have that.

Q. (26:54) How did you get the information that he had been identified?

A. Through Dover, and then RICK LANCE and I were in touch, of course on a daily basis.

Q. (27:10) Did he get, did he get the word and then -?

A. From Dover, yes, and then called me. So again we went back with a new Chaplain, and broke the news to her. And she knew we were coming. She knew what we had to say. We brought that he's been positively identified.

Then it was a series of memorial services and burials in N3/N5. Personally, you know I probably lost, lost seven guys that I knew in the Command Center. Certainly all the 513 guys that were lost and many other faces that I would recognize, although maybe didn't know them and didn't work with them. I'd been in OPNAV for about ten months at that time.

I went to probably all of those, either memorial services or funerals for those individuals. I might have missed one or two for various reasons.

During this time we were working out of the Annex. We had a makeshift office N3/N5 did. It really was just a big room with a bunch of tables and two phones and one computer. We'd go over there in the morning and some reservists had been brought in. Our job was to administer to those that were lost and to do leg work with CACO duties. Help the CACOs. There were financial issues involved. Awards were being written up. The reservists mostly did that and just setting up these services. And all of us had a family in N3/N5 to do.

What we used to do is go on there in the morning and have a morning meeting. We also had our normal, you know N51 work to do too, as best we could. The joint pub stuff, the word was you know, don't worry about that for a month. That's small stuff. That's paperwork. You know, we

got a war to fight here. So we did think pieces on how best to go about it, and how to use our forces and presented things to the CNO.

I was told that our work was appreciated. It was passed down through ADMIRAL KEATING. Anyway. We'd go in there in the morning. What I used to do was after the morning meeting, maybe about ten o'clock I would leave and go home where I had a phone and a computer to do the things that I needed to do, 'cause it was just too crowded, and we were fighting you know falling each over, over ourselves in that little room with those two phones.

OK, I've rambled a lot here. You probably have some questions we can zero in on.

Q. (29:58) Anything on the 9-11 experience from a family perspective, or reconstitution before we get onto some of the Operation Enduring Freedom?

A. Family experience? My family experience?

Q. (30:11) Well, DOLAN family.

A. DOLAN's from 9-11.

Q. (30:15) I was going to ask you, related to that, the, I assume that there were just remains found and did you get involved in the found and then there maybe some more, and –

A. OK, right, I'll take you through that. Yes, there were remains. Not one hundred percent. None of the funerals were open casket. BOB requested to be buried in his blues. I'm not sure the details of how that occurred, but his blue uniform was placed in the casket. BOB's funeral was on October 12th and it was the day after the DOD memorial; service here outside the Pentagon where the President spoke.

BOB's family who I met, mother and father, mother-in-law, [REDACTED] mother, they were all there, other relatives and friends of the family. One of BOB's closest friends was CAPTAIN DAVE THOMAS, who's now the N3/N5 EA. So he was there and then myself, my wife [REDACTED]. She was invited.

Again in the weeks prior to this we had gone to the Naval Academy for other services had done BILL DUNN and others, so I'd given [REDACTED] rides and [REDACTED] had accompanied me on some of these where she could make it.

So the DOLAN family was there for that, on the 11th at the Pentagon here, and then the next day it was at the Naval Academy at the chapel. Very well attended. It was packed and the class of '81 was having their twenty-year reunion that weekend. So many of his friends, those eighty-oners that wanted to show support, were there. And they took time out just to change schedule around to other events. You know, fun you know class reunion events to make that service at the chapel. It was in blues. ADMIRAL WALKINDORF (phonetic) spoke. Some of BOB's friends, one of BOB's friends that he grew up with was a speaker there, and CAPTAIN TEMPESTELLY, his brother-in-law also gave a eulogy. Very nicely done.

My buddies and I, you know with the CACO, I was the officer in charge of putting that ceremony together. Lots of my 512 buddies, who had helped for other services, they helped as ushers, pallbearers. There were many class of eighty-oners who were pallbearers as well and honorary pallbearers.

BOB wanted to be buried at sea. [REDACTED] didn't want that, but, initially, but she relented. You know MARK talked to her, and this was what BOB wanted. You know, he had talked to everyone about this. [REDACTED] said, "Well I really didn't want that for myself. I want a place to go and there's no place to go at sea."

A memorial is going to be built here in Arlington. There are some, there will be some remains that will be placed in this memorial I'm told, so [REDACTED] and the other families can say that there might be a piece of their loved ones there.

BOB was buried in January, buried at sea, *USS McInerney* out of Mayport. BOB had command of the *USS John Hancock* out of Mayport. He might have been the last CO of the *John Hancock*.

But his former DESRON staff there, you know knew him and they did a great job I'm told.

CAPTAIN TEMPESTELLY (phonetic) and CAPT DAVE THOMAS were out there as well.

[REDACTED] was there at pier side to say her goodbyes, and then they went out to sea and they had a very nice ceremony. Nothing but good to say about *USS McInerney* and how they treated everyone. Then TEMPESTELLY and THOMAS were helo'd off back to Mayport. They picked up [REDACTED] and they went home. OK.

Q. (34:35) Were there decisions that had to be made about doing the services before they had all the remains. Was that a decision that you were involved with [REDACTED] having to make that decision?

A. Yes.

Q. (34:35) Partial remains?

A. Yes, and so there were remains, there were other remains that were yet to be identified and [REDACTED] was of the mind to wait until everything, but now you know weeks have passed and the October 11th ceremony was a good time for family members to be there and the very next day to do it at the Academy with or in conjunction with the class of '81 reunion. Things just worked out. So [REDACTED] was, she realized that October 11th was a good time to do it. And if there were

other remains found they could, they could certainly still, because this wasn't a burial, they could certainly go into the casket or into the memorial that's going to be built here at Arlington for the victims. So she was OK with that.

Q. (35:46) Did she have to make that decision, I mean where she wanted them.

A. Yes.

Q. (35:50) Because we understand you know that they stopped doing any further identification on remains. At that point we were told that they were going to go back to the folks and say, "OK now what do you want to do?"

A. Right.

Q. (36:04) You get involved with any of –

A. I probably was not, I was not privy to that, really, and that would be where RICK LANCE really worked those. Those meat and potato issues. I was on the second level, second tier issues of the services and you know, "Can I give you a ride somewhere," or you know kind of moral support from N3/N5

Q. (36:29) Now is it, I think you're the first person we've talked to that has been that close. We heard about the process. I'm wondering how that process worked out because we understand that it was a process that was not documented. They had to kind of create that –

A. Yes.

Q. Process because of the situation that they, they found themselves in.

A. Yes. I would imagine there was a lot of things just kind of on the side, we never dealt with this. Another good news story is BOB was a Captain Select. Before he was positively identified, he was promoted to Captain. So he was buried with his eagle devices or on his sleeve. Yes, so he was buried as Captain. That's good.

Q. (37:27) You said they were all recommended to be closed casket. Did you know that –?

A. I not, I think any open casket.

Q. OK, but some of the family I think wanted, when it gets to, whoever, whatever, private –

A. Yes, they want to see –

Q. See the –

A. Yes, she wanted to see and that was denied and that was her brother-in-law got involved in that and said, “No,” you know I mean we – and of course you know all of us want to do everything for the widow. This was an area for her own good. “No, you do not.”

Q. (38:05) Anything else on 9-11 before we go to the 512th, 5-1-2-.

A. When I think of 9-11 I think of New York, even though I was here in the building. It's just that you know that you get bombarded with the images of the towers and the whole country you know because they're just so, just those images, I mean you just can't get away from them. You know seeing the airplane's fly in there and the building explode and collapse. Those searing images. Just recently you know, you're seeing the pictures on the news of the Pentagon getting

hit and then a few days ago we got that email, what was, was sent around here, and emailed some friends and now the news media has it, which is fine. I guess there's more pictures out there that we'll see in time as a nation, but I still think of, I still think of New York.

Let's see the day after, the day after we went and told the DOLAN family, you know, "We've positively identified your husband." Actually later that day after we said, we found, we identified BOB, there was a family I won't say service, but a group got together at the Family Service Center at the Sheraton Hotel, which your probably going to cover. That was a great setup they had there.

Anyway there were buses that would take all the family members and give them a tour of the site. So they roped off the streets and police escort, and the buses came here, along the road right in front of the impact area, and there was a grandstand, or a stand set up. Of course the field was just covered with you know, emergency personnel and law enforcement, fire and what have you, but the families were there to place flowers and just to see the site and say prayers. Actually I guess, (appears to speak to perhaps someone who entered the room)

Do we have time? We have some time.

██████ and I and CAPTAIN TEMPESTELLY (phonetic), maybe three or four days after she said, "I want to go to the site." So the three of us just went here. We went up to the Annex. The three of us walked down the hill, because there was no cars and talked to the policeman. "Hey this is the widow of one of the victims."

"Go right ahead." So they allowed us to come right down here. We knelt down and said some prayers in front of the site with all the work going on around us. This is more formal with ██████ family, who I mentioned here about ten or fourteen days later. Up the hill from the Annex you probably saw the memorials with the flowers. Some of BOB's friends had put a memorial there

for BOB. It was a shirt. It was a dive shirt. BOB was a diver earlier in his career. One of his Dive buddies had put that shirt on there and said “Hey Bob we’ll never forget you. We’ll take care of [REDACTED] and the kids.”

I saved that shirt. It had been there, had been rained on, been about a month and CAPTAIN TEMPESTELLY (phonetic) said, “Hey,” You know, “I’m afraid of what’s going to happen to all that stuff up there.”

We didn’t know what was going to happen. So I went by and took the shirt and returned it to the family. Found out later that all those mementos had been saved and they’re going to be displayed someplace.

(appears to be speaking to someone else) OK, right away, yeah.

The next day I took my family down to the Pentagon site and to that memorial and again the road was, the road passed the service station was closed, but we got there and found a place to park. Showed the kids, you know the flowers, the memorials and certainly the gash in the building. And I told my two older boys, “Guys, don’t ever forget who did this to us. Our enemies did this to us.”

My oldest son is interested in going to the Naval Academy and just like me, he wants to, I wanted to follow in my father’s footsteps and grandfathers, so it’s a – I didn’t really, I didn’t become an engineer. I’m the black sheep in the family and became a line officer. But I’m not going to push my children, but if he decides to go into the service, into the Navy and be an officer I’d just burst with pride. Although I’m certainly aware of the dangers as a parent, but it’s been a great life and I would not want to deny anyone, even my own son that wonderful type of life I had.

Then after that I took them down to the vault, into the Lincoln Memorial and the Vietnam Memorial and some of the things, it was a nice day again. There were some people out in the Mall, not many as you would expect on a weekend, but some locals were out there throwing their Frisbee, or just up strolling.

Q. (42:59) Let's shift to talk a few minutes on 5-12. OK, I'm going to shift the tape.

Tape ends.

Transcribed by:
Ethel Geary
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