

**Naval Historical Center
Oral Interview Summary Form**

Interviewers:

Capt Michael McDaniel

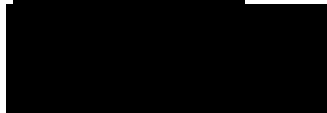
Interviewer's Organization:

Naval Historical Center

Interviewee:

CDR Kevin Lee Hannes

Current Address:



Date of Interview:

24 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; evacuation; Pentagon Evacuation; Family Assistance Center; CACO

Abstract of Interview:

Interviewee Information: CDR Hannes was born in [REDACTED], NM. His father was in the Air Force. He grew up in Texas, attending high school and junior college on a golf scholarship. He was looking for a way to pay for two more years of college. He found out about ROTC and went to the Naval Science Institute (NSI) in summer 1980. Upon completion of NSI he received a two-year ROTC scholarship at the University of Texas. After about one year he was offered a golf scholarship at Saint Andrews University, so he resigned his ROTC scholarship and became a College Program candidate while still affiliating with the University of Texas ROTC. On his First Class cruise he realized he wasn't cut out for Surface Warfare and would have to be an aviator if he stayed in. He studied business management and accounting. He graduated and was commissioned through the University of Texas ROTC program in May 1985. He went to flight school as a Naval Flight Officer. He chose to go P-3's and went through that training pipeline. He went to VP-6 in Hawaii. From there he went to Navy Postgraduate School and received his Masters in Financial Management. He then went to the *USS Dwight D. Eisenhower* as the Assistant Air Operations Officer and Air Transfer Officer. He was still USNR and got the letter saying they weren't promoting USNR officers so he made plans to get out of the Navy. His detailer called him and told him he was promoted to O-4 so he stayed in and went to PATWINGPAC in Hawaii working NFO Training and Current Readiness for the squadrons. He flected up and became Assistant Chief of Staff for Manpower and Personnel. He picked up a Department Head tour at VP-9 in Hawaii. In 1998 he reported to the Pentagon at N512.

Topics Discussed:

On 11 Sep they had just relocated to the new wedge in the 3D area at the apex of the Third and Fourth Corridors. It was a normal day; they had their morning meeting at 0745. They were

going to get coffee after the meeting and someone told them about the World Trade Center getting hit by an airplane. They decided to go down to the Command Center to watch the television. Two or three people went to the Command Center to do so.

He talked to some people in the Command Center and told them he would be right down to watch the television coverage. The Political Officer walked out of his office and told CDR Hannes and a group of others they could watch television in his office. They then started to watch and saw the second airplane hit the second tower. Shortly after they felt the shock wave. It was like an earthquake, the building shook. He immediately smelled jet fuel and knew what had happened. The window by him faced out towards the E ring. They began to see black smoke and a fireball.

People started panicking. They went downstairs and he ended up in the courtyard. There was an Army LTCOL drenched in jet fuel. CDR Hannes and another person got him away from the corridor and someone took him from them. CDR Hannes went back and there were some more people coming out with minor burns, smoke inhalation and shock. They got them outside and sitting down. He looked around and saw pieces of the airplane lying in the center courtyard. He started to see people from the office and took note of that. ADM McGinn came out and told everyone to go to South Parking. They went out Corridor Two to the South Parking lot and tried to round up people. They then heard what sounded like a second explosion, but it was the building collapsing.

They got the word to go home and were walking to Capt O'Brien's car to go home when some DPS security guards told them another plane was inbound. They got in Capt O'Brien's car but they couldn't get out of the parking lot because of the traffic. They tried to make cell calls but couldn't get through. He got home around 1530 or 1600 and this was the first time he talked to his wife. His daughter had heard about it at school and was upset.

Around 1800 he got a phone call from a Captain from N512 who asked him if he would be a CACO officer. He told him yes and was told to stay by the phone until they called back. CDR Hannes asked how bad it was and was told 513 was gone for sure. He got a call around 2200 and was told he would be the CACO for CDR Dunn. He knew CDR Dunn and people often confused the two of them. He knew CDR Dunn's wife was pregnant. CDR Hannes tried to put his uniform together and realized most of it was in his office. He had an NFO neighbor and borrowed uniform items from him. Around midnight the duty driver arrived. They arrived at the Dunn's house around 0100. He met the other CACO, CDR Marty Martin another P3 NFO. CDR Martin was the primary CACO and CDR Hannes was the Command Representative.

When they arrived at the Dunn's house all he knew was they had received a phone call asking if they had heard from LCDR Dunn and that someone would come to give them an update. LCDR Dunn's family from New Jersey was there as well as his wife's parents. All CDR Hannes could tell them was he was missing and people were trying to find him.

One of the best things N3/N5 did was assign a Command Representative to the family. This way the family could ask specific questions that a person who didn't know the victim wouldn't know. They spent the rest of the night at the Dunn's talking, praying, and answering phone calls. They were back at their house at 0800 or 0900 the next morning because the family wanted someone from the Navy with them. Either CDR Martin or CDR Hannes were at the house 24 hours a day for the first week.

CDR Hannes returned to the Pentagon for the first time on 18 Sep. About two weeks after 11 Sep on a Sunday CDR Martin called CDR Hannes and told him LCDR Dunn's remains had been identified. They met at the Dunn's house. They went in with the Chaplain, the family was all still there. They told them all at once the remains had been identified. They said a prayer with the Chaplain and then went outside to let the family grieve.

A week or two later they took the family to the Joint Family Assistance Center and got information. There was a cancellation at Arlington and they were able to move the internment up. They set up a memorial service at the Naval Academy Chapel with the internment the following day. Since CDR Martin was the Commanding Officer of the Ceremonial Guard he did the service with the Guard. It was a big media event. That was one of twenty some funerals he would attend in the next 6 ½ to 8 weeks. He knew all of them and had served with a third of them. LT Lamana was one of his junior officers in the squadron who he had counseled about going to the Pentagon.

When he came back to the Pentagon on 18 Sep he hadn't realized the extent of the damage that had been done. The smoke smell hit when he walked in the Pentagon. He didn't know where their office was and finally found it in the Navy Annex with one table and one phone. They went back to paper, pencil and a phone. He still didn't have a grasp of who had been lost because the names hadn't been released. He got to see the list of the victims and realized he knew them all.

VADM Norb Ryan and his brother ADM John Ryan got a C12 to fly to Capt Getzfred's funeral in Illinois. CDR Hannes was able to go with them and Capt O'Brien since he had worked for Capt Getzfred in Hawaii. VADM Ryan presented the flag to Mrs. Dunn and her children.

Mrs. Dunn was due to have her baby in two weeks at the time of the interview. CDR Hannes was going to be the one to drive her to the hospital. The baby would be a girl named [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was where the Dunns met and Patricia for the dad, [REDACTED] Dunn.

CDR Hannes family had some tragedies in their lives in the recent past. His wife had been diagnosed with breast cancer in 1999 and their house had burned down. This had made them stronger and helped them cope with this experience.

Abstracted by:
CDR Carol O'Hagan
27 Mar 02

**Naval Historical Center
Transcript of Oral Interview**

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Capt Michael McDaniel

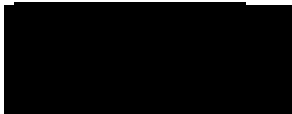
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Transcript of Interview:

Interviewee Information:

CDR Hannes was born in [REDACTED], NM. His father was in the Air Force. He grew up in Texas, attending high school and junior college on a golf scholarship. He was looking for a way to pay for two more years of college. He found out about ROTC and went to the Naval Science Institute (NSI) in summer 1980. Upon completion of NSI he received a two-year ROTC scholarship at the University of Texas. After about one year he was offered a golf scholarship at Saint Andrews University, so he resigned his ROTC scholarship and became a College Program candidate while still affiliating with the University of Texas ROTC. On his First Class cruise he realized he wasn't cut out for Surface Warfare and would have to be an aviator if he stayed in. He studied business management and accounting. He graduated and was commissioned through the University of Texas ROTC program in May 1985. He went to flight school as a Naval Flight Officer. He chose to go P-3's and went through that training pipeline. He went to VP-6 in Hawaii. From there he went to Navy Postgraduate School and received his Masters in Financial Management. He then went to the *USS Dwight D. Eisenhower* as the Assistant Air Operations Officer and Air Transfer Officer. He was still USNR and got the letter saying they weren't promoting USNR officers so he made plans to get out of the Navy. His detailer called him and told him he was promoted to O-4 so he stayed in and went to PATWINGPAC in Hawaii working NFO Training and Current Readiness for the squadrons. He flected up and became Assistant Chief of Staff for Manpower and Personnel. He picked up a Department Head tour at VP-9 in Hawaii. In 1998 he reported to the Pentagon at N512.

Topics Discussed:

Q. (09:53) In the second part of the interview we'll talk about more of your details of N512. So let's come back to 9/11. Where was your office located?

A. We had just relocated to the wedge that was constructed in the Pentagon, had just opened. We moved in I think the first week or so of August, we had moved into that wing. So we were in 4D, or 3D something, something. But we were right at the apex of the 4th and, 3rd and 4th corridors.

Q. (10:28) OK, where did you move from?

A. We had moved from 5 echo - 4 echo 531, which was right at the impact point, by four force (phonetic) is where we were up until August of that.

Q. (10:48) OK, kind of walk through that day for me. Tell me your recollection of that whole day, just kind of relive it.

A. It was just, it was just a normal day. I mean we got in, did our morning meeting at about 7:45, eight o'clock. Everybody kind of had what they were going to do that day. It wasn't going to be a real busy day for most of us. Normal, just normal staffing. Everyone was happy that day, nothing really big. 512 has a tradition of after the morning meeting basically all of us walk out and go get a coffee. Not allowed to talk business. Just kind of, unless we want to gripe about the boss and then, so we were down there walking and getting coffee and we were coming back about 8:30 or so and somebody came to us and said, "Hey, the World Trade Center just got hit by an airplane."

Q. (11:40) What'd you think when you heard that?

A. Wow, you got to be kidding me, a Cessna or what?

He said, "No, we don't know." You know, he said, "It could have just been some guy flying around."

It was a beautiful, clear day here. Didn't know what the weather conditions were up in New York, but figured, Ah it was just some, somebody out, got lost in the clouds and you know went into the side of the—didn't know it went into the—figured they probably hit it and bounced off. So we came up, we were coming back into our space and we'd all talked about, "Well, let's go down to the Command Center," because the new space didn't have TVs yet. We hadn't had the cable installed yet, because we had just gotten in there. So we had a bunch of TVs, you know unplugged sitting on top of the file cabinets waiting to be installed.

I think two or three guys went down to the Command Center right from there to start watching on the big screen TV to see what was going on and what was going to happen. And I came into the office and –

Q. (12:36) Do you remember who went down?

A. I think it was CDR Jarusewski and CDR Dunsnell (phonetic) who went down. I know those two went down. I don't know if anybody else went down. We were sitting around talking about it. Big stir going around, yeah it was a big airplane that hit everything. It's on fire. The CNO's political advisor, whose office is right behind my puka, came out of his office and said, "Hey, I'm going to be out of the office. If you guys want to watch it in here, they just got my cable hooked up."

But I had already, I'd just gotten off the phone with somebody down in Command Center who said, "You guys watching it?"

I said, "Yeah." I said, "Well, I'll be down in just a minute or two to watch it with you guys," because I knew –

Q. (13:24) In the Command Center.

A. In the Command Center, and at that point the POAD walked out and said, "Hey you guys can watch it on mine."

Q. (13:31) Who was that again?

A. The Political Advisor, I can't remember his name.

Q. (13:36) OK.

A. He was going to be out of the office all day, and he says, "Hey, you can just watch it there."

I remember a group of us just stayed around watching it when the second airplane hit.

Q. (13:45) So you saw it as it happened?

A. We saw the second aircraft hit.

Q. (14:37) Wow.

A. And we –

Q. (14:49) Describe that.

A. It was just, it was just, we were just like, “That was a jet. This is intentional. This is, this is not good.” A lot of us joked and said, “Why would they hit the Trade center? Why don’t they hit like the Pentagon, the White House, or you know Congress. This is like that Clancy novel,” you know, “where the Japanese are going to come stirring in and crash the 747 into the Capital.” And we were just kind of you know, thought about it. We watched it for a little bit in kind of disbelief, and watched the replays and said, “Yeah, that’s definitely a large jet.”

Then I remember going back to my desk getting ready to make some phone calls and kind of go about the day, and normally I call my wife about that time. She goes to school. I just want to check in with her while she’s in traffic before she gets in class, but those things were going on and fell a little bit behind. I don’t know, slipped my mind. I just didn’t call her that morning. That’s when we felt the shock, shock wave of –

Q. (14:55) Describe that for me. Describe in words.

A. It was, it was like an earthquake. I mean the building just shook. I remember stumbling back in my chair, and going “What the hell was that?” And then I could smell jet fuel, and I –

Q. (15:12) You knew at that point -?

A. I knew exactly what had happened, an aircraft had hit us. It was like, “Wow! Just what we were saying we would do, they had done.” Then the smoke coming over the outside of the building; there was one window we could just see the fireball and the smoke.

Q. (15:32) Which way was your window facing, was -?

A. Oh, let’s see, the window that we were looking out faced out.

Q. (15:41) Out.

A. Toward the E ring.

Q. (15:42) Toward the E –ring, OK.

A. Toward the E ring. Catty corner, right next to it, so we could start seeing the black smoke billowing and the second fireball come over. At that point people started panicking. I don't know if it's just because you know, more of the junior, some of the junior sailors and some of the civilians that we had in there and stuff were really running around and just panicking and didn't know what to do, and I guess, you know, being an aviator and having to deal with emergencies, and you don't have a place to run out, you just kind of – a sense of training or calm just kind of came over you and you just said, "OK, Let's just shut down," you know, "We're not in immediate danger right here." OK, we've got some smoke maybe coming in. We've got some, we could smell you know, fumes, but nothing's burning in here and our sprinkler systems aren't going off, so let's calm down and shut things down and put things away, and then let's get out of here in an orderly fashion.

I remember directing some folks out, you know, trying to get some folks out of there. Just calming them down and then say, "Now you can leave, now that you're calm."

Went down stairs and ended up in the courtyard down at ground zero and as I came out the door there was a Army Lieutenant Colonel just drenched in jet fuel. We got him, myself and I don't know who else it was got him as far away from that corridor as possible. We got away from things, and somebody took him from me. I don't know who it was that took him.

And I went back and there was a couple of other people coming out that had maybe minor burns, but it was more smoke inhalation, shock, you know type injuries and we just kind of got them down on the ground.

I remember looking around and seeing pieces of the airplane laying in the center court and then thinking to myself, "Probably not a good place to be, is in the center court. But I don't know if being on the outside is any better."

Q. (17:44) So you actually saw pieces of the airplane in the center –

A. In the center court, yeah.

Q. (17:47) How'd they get there?

A. I assume they, when the aircraft hit the building that they carried that far as part of the explosion.

Q. (17:54) OK, over the building.

A. Over the building and into the center, the center courtyard, because they were sizeable pieces and then there were smaller, smaller pieces.

I remember seeing some folks from the office and trying to say, "OK, I've seen him, I've seen him, I've seen him. You guys just go this way."

Then ADMIRAL MCGINN came out and said, "OK, everybody out of the courtyard. Let's get everybody to South Parking, or North Parking," and we ended up going through the tube into South Parking by going out corridor 1 or 2, which was ground level 2, coming out into the South Parking lot and started trying to round people up, you know. Air Force people this way. Navy

people this way, Army people, and try to get everybody round up and then we heard a second, what people thought was an explosion. I guess I did, too, but it was when the building collapsed. We heard that.

Then we found most of our folks from the office, CAPT O'BRIEN and myself, CDR MILLER, and our Coast Guard JEFF HUGHES, we all kind of got together and they basically, we got the word that, "Go home," you know. "Get out of here." As we were walking back to get in CAPT O'BRIEN's car to go home, we heard that there's another airplane inbound.

Q. (19:23) How was that word passed?

A. Think we were walking by some of the security guards.

Q. (19:32) The DPS?

A. The DPS security guards, the men in black I call them. (chuckle) So it was OK, well this is probably not a real good place still to be so let's get out, you know, get out of here and head home. We were just you know, sitting in the car listening to it and traffic was just, you just could not get out of the Pentagon parking lot.

I remember JEFF HUGHES had a cell phone and all of us were trying you know, at least call home and say, "Hey, we're OK." Couldn't get through. The cell phone monitor just clogged. You just could not get through and then it's battery died.

I guess we left the parking lot around, you know, I don't even have any idea what time it was that we left. I didn't get home until around 3:30 or 4:00, and so my wife didn't know where I was at, or –

Q. (20:24) So you had not talked to her, but you got home before anything. Did you talk to her?

A. I had not talked to her until I walked in the door.

Q. (20:32) Wow, describe that for us.

A. Well, it was pretty intense because she had gone to school.

Q. (20:40) She a teacher?

A. No, she's a student, so she was at Grad School when she walked in the class and people were talking. She goes, "What happened?"

She goes, "They said, 'Oh, a plane, you know, they just bombed the Pentagon.'"

She goes, "Oh, damn, KEVIN's going to be late tonight," you know. Then she started seeing it and it was like, "You know, I think I'm just going to go home and see if he'll call."

She tried to call the office and of course got the voice mail, and didn't get you know any answer.

Tried to call me on my cell phone, which was in my car, not on me. So she couldn't get a hold of

me. So she went home and got home and her dad had called. Was calling and saying you know,

"We're coming. We got the guns." Good old boys from Texas, you know, "We're coming!"

Q. (21:24) Seriously?

A. They were coming.

Q. (21:26) They got in the car and just drove.

A. No, she said, "No, let's just wait. We'll wait to hear." Then my daughter called her from school, at the high school. She's a freshman in high school and they were showing it on TV.

They basically, you know, she started getting scared, because she knew where my office was. She didn't realize that I had moved and she knew where my office was, it was right over the landing pad, so she seen the building collapse.

Q. (21:56) Where is she in high school?

A. At West Springfield High School.

Q. (21:55) OK.

A. So my wife went and got her, and brought her, they were answering the phone, her [REDACTED] family you know, calling and saying, "Have you heard from him yet? Have you heard from him yet? We're coming."

Q. (22:07) Any other children?

A. My son is eleven years old. He was in the fifth grade, but they didn't announce anything at the school, at the elementary school that he was at. He had no clue and stuff. But when I walked in it was like, wow.

Q. (22:25) Describe that.

A. It, I don't think I can describe it. I mean it was just, just a lot of hugging and holding and sitting down and going, "I can't believe what has just happened." You know, and so I guess about – my son got home and we called her family and said, "Hey, he's OK." you know. They had rounded up all the nieces and nephews and they were pretty scared because they had toured the Pentagon about three months earlier and knew exactly where my office was and they saw the

footage and they're saying they haven't heard from them. But we got everybody notified that I was OK, and then this was about six o'clock I got the phone call from CAPT TIDD (phonetic) and he asked me if I would be a CACO officer. I said, "Yes." I said, "How many?"

He goes, "It's bad. We don't know yet, but it's real bad."

I said, "Just let me know what you need me to do."

He said, "Just stay by the phone. We'll call you and let you know who you're going to CACO for, " and –

I said, "Well, sir, how bad is it?"

He goes, "513 is gone for sure."

I said, "Wow!" It became a very somber moment, but it was still very surreal, and about ten, about ten o'clock they called me, and they said, "You are going to be a CACO for CDR DUNN," and [REDACTED] DUNN, and I knew PAT very well because he was in 312 when I was just checked in in '98, and so he was on the staff and had just gotten back from his XO tour on the *LASALLE*, and we look a little bit alike. He's just a hair shorter than me, but we have the same basic build and coloring and everything. We look a lot alike and people have confused us earlier before I got more gray hair.

I knew his wife was pregnant and that was tough. So I went to go get my whites ready to go over and do this. This is something you can't pre- you know how do you get yourself mentally –

Q. (24:58) Right.

A. Basically, my wife and kids just left me alone the rest of the night. They just stayed downstairs, and I kind of just stayed upstairs trying to figure out how I was going to do this. It's not something that –

Q. (25:07) Had you ever done anything like that before?

A. I had never, I had done, never to notify somebody of that magnitude. I had made phone calls to say you know, son or daughter's been injured. They're fine. You know, "We'll work to get you out here," but it was never going to be, you know, "We don't know his status, but it doesn't look good," you know type thing, or how do you go about it and keep the hope, the initial hope up, because it's only what twelve hours since it had occurred and so there's still hope. You know, maybe he's dazed and off someplace, or you know, they don't know who he is and he's a John Doe, you know someplace.

Q. (25:52) Did you know, had you met [REDACTED] DUNN?

A. I had not met [REDACTED].

Q. (25:55) OK.

A. I had not met [REDACTED]. I had not met [REDACTED], and I remember trying to put my uniform together, and realizing that most of it was in my office. So luckily a neighbor up the street is another VP guy and I ran up to his house and got the accoutrements that. Thank God he was a NFO, he was a Captain at the time, so he still had his Commander shoulder boards and so we just got the uniform together and then about, this was about midnight, the black car you know, pulls up and that pretty much upset the neighborhood, because they didn't see me come home. The neighbors that were right next to me, nobody had seen me come home, because my car still wasn't there, because I had left it at the Metro station and just got a ride home.

Q. (26:46) Oh, wow.

A. So they see the car pull up and you know, the people in the uniform get out and come up to our front door, and they're thinking I'm one of the victims until I walked out to get into the car to go over to the DUNN's house to give them the first, the first word. I think we got to their house at about one o'clock in the morning. The DUNN's so September 12th, 1:00 AM.

Q. (27:15) Wow, OK.

A. We go there, when we got to the DUNN's house -

Q. (27:18) Did you met the other CACO?

A. Yes, we -

Q. (27:25) Because you were N3/N5 reps.

A. We paired up, right we paired up and the other CACO was CDR MARTY MARTIN who I knew, who was another VP NFO. When they called me and told me who you know, my counterpart was going to be, they said MARSHALL. I said, "Who the hell is MARSHALL MARTIN?"

I called CAPT O' BRIEN and said, "Who's this MARSHALL MARTIN?" and you know, "He's telling me that we're making initial notifications, but that he thinks the family already knows."

You know, "What's up?"

He goes, "Oh, that MARTY MARTIN. Here's his phone number."

I said, "OK, that's MARTIN, OK." So we worked out that -

Q. (27:54) And he was over at Ceremonial Guard, correct?

A. Right, he's the CO of the Ceremonial Guard.

Q. (27:57) Did you know that at that time, or just know him back from the VP.

A. No, I knew that he had just checked in in that billet. Because I knew him as MARTY, I didn't know his first name was MARSHALL. I thought it was, you know something else.

So when we got to the DUNN's house, all I knew was that they had gotten a phone call to say that, wondering if they had heard from PAT, and you know, they hadn't heard from him and they knew somebody was going to come and give them some information on his status.

Q (28:33) That's all.

A. That's all I knew.

Q. Wow.

A. And so when we walked in PAT's brother and sister and their family had already gotten there from New Jersey, and [REDACTED] parents had been there about an hour, hour and a half.

They live in North Carolina. So she had a lot of family around when we made the initial call you know. I was, it was the hardest thing I've ever had to do at that point, but all I could tell them

was he's missing. He's right now listed as missing. Everybody is doing everything they can,

within their power to find him, but we don't know where he is. We don't know where he was.

All we know is we haven't heard from him and you haven't heard from him. And that's all we

know at that point.

Q. (29:39) Describe that notification for the tape. Just kind of walk us through it verbally.

A. Pulled up. We had a chaplain. I think it was a Catholic Chaplain and CDR MARTIN and myself.

Q. (29:59) In a Navy car?

A. A Navy car, the big black sedan –

Q. (30:01) With a driver?

A. With a driver. The typical, here comes bad news, you know. Seen it in the movies. Here it is you know.

Q. (30:14) This is about one in the morning?

A. About one o'clock in the morning.

Q. (30:16) Any activity in the neighborhood at all?

A. No activity in the neighborhood whatsoever. Her's was the only light on. You know, just went in and introduced ourselves.

Q. (30:27) Family was up.

A. Everybody was up. Went in and introduced ourselves you know. MARTY would be the official CACO, but I was his you know, liaison because I knew PAT personally, and it's probably one of the best things, I think, we and N3/N5 did, was assign somebody to the family who knew the member personally.

Q. (30:54) That was important to the family wasn't it?

A. That was very important to the family, very important, because they could ask us specific questions that a person who didn't know who couldn't answer, like "Had you talked to him today?" You know, "Where was his desk exactly?" You know, "Did you see him earlier? Did you talk to him? What was he thinking?"

You know, those types of questions, we were able to, I at least was able to answer for them and others, you know. "Who else do we know?" and some of the other questions. Somemore of that N3/5 specific type questions that they had. I just remember sitting down with [REDACTED] and just, and it dawned on me again, "Oh, she's pregnant." You know, and then starting worry about, "Oh geez, need to get a hold of a doctor." Need to make sure her doctor's aware of what's going on and get her something. This is going to be tough.

We spent the rest of the night with the family, talking, praying and answering questions and screening phone calls for them. Got home probably about six or seven o'clock in the morning the 12th and was back at their house at 8:00 or 9:00 o'clock the next morning.

They just wanted somebody from the Navy with them, because they thought if anybody's going to get a call first, it will be MARTY or myself. We'll get the phone call because we're going to have to tell them something.

So we started building this relationship with them and that went on for about, either MARTY or myself was at the house just about twenty-four hours a day for the first week. One of us was always there, and I came back to the Pentagon for the first time, I think on the 16th, or the 17th.

The next Tuesday was the first week. So I was gone from the Pentagon for a week, basically just doing everyday with the DUNN family, you know. Providing any updates we had with them.

Trying to give them as much information as we could and that what we should give them about how the rescue effort was going on. Trying to reassure them that everything was being done that could be done for them, and just provide, doing anything they wanted us to do for about that first week.

I can't remember what day, it was a Sunday. Must have been about two weeks later, MARTY called me. He says, "KEVIN, they've identified PAT. I'll meet you at the house in an hour."

I remember, my wife and kids they went to church that morning. For some reason I stayed home.

I can't remember why I stayed home that morning. I remember them passing me as I was driving and they could see I was in my uniform, because I didn't wear my uniform. I told them I said,

"I'm not going to wear my uniform unless I have something official to tell them. So if you see me in my uniform, I've got some official word to give you." That was the deal I made with them.

I said, "I'll just be in civvies over here just providing support, whatever, but if I'm in my uniform then we've got something, there's a change in status or there's some, some type of news.

I remember meeting MARTY. I got there a little bit before and I stayed parked down the street until I saw MARTY was there with the Chaplain, and we went in again, and they knew I think at that point because we were all in uniform.

Q. (35:11) The family was still around at that time?

A. The family was still there. The house was full and we got the family together and told them that PAT had been identified.

Q. (35:21) Did you tell them all at once, or -?

A. We told them all at once. We made sure [REDACTED] was sitting down and her mom was sitting down and PAT's brothers and sisters were sitting down.

Q. (35:34) Wow!

A. You know, "[REDACTED], there's just no easy way to say this, but PAT's been identified, positively identified with dental records," and you know, "He's gone."

We said a prayer with the Chaplain and we went outside, and that whole process took about fifteen minutes, and then we just went outside and just let the family grieve by themselves for a while.

Then the process of working with them to, "Where do you want PAT interned?" Those types of things and going on. It was a very long, long day. That was *the* hardest thing that I've ever done in my life was to go and tell them. Because over a week, week and a half we bonded as a family almost, and it was like telling your little sister her husband was dead, you know. They hadn't even reached their two years anniversary yet.

Then we got them, it was a day or so later we got them to the Family Service Center and started getting some more information, briefs and they took a tour of the site with the Family Service Center in a bus.

Q. (36:59) Were you on that with them?

A. No, I was not. I couldn't, I couldn't do that. That was something they needed to do by themselves.

We were at the hotel, and MARTY and I were waiting for them to come back when we got the phone call that there was a cancellation and we could get PAT's internment done real soon, like

within four or five days in Arlington. So we started working that process of getting the ceremony put together at the Naval Academy Chapel for a memorial service, followed by, the next day by the internment. Doing all those personal things for them. Coordinating all that, which I guess was my way of contributing to the effort, was being part of that, and something I'll never forget. And then MARTY being the CO with the Ceremonial Guard did the service as part of the Guard and that was, with the family, and that was tough. That was tough. I think he was, that was the first service, so it was also a big media event, because he was going to be the first Navy victim interned, having to deal with the media and keeping them at bay.

Q. (38:39) How was that?

A. They were very good.

Q. (38:40) Were they?

A. They were very good. They were very respectful. They wanted information. We gave the information that the family wants them to have, you know, but they were very respectful and they did a very good job of coverage and yet without being known that they were there. That was a long day, and that was one of twenty-some funerals that I was going to attend in the next –

Q. (39:10) Is that right?

A. Six, next six and a half to eight weeks, because I knew all of them. Had served with a third of them. LT LAMANA, SCOTT LAMANA was one of my JOs in the squadron. I said, "Hey, yes, go to the Pentagon. It's a great place to go," and helped him get his orders to the Pentagon. I was one of the CNO grieverers, so I knew all of them.

Q. (39:39) Had you ever lost anybody you knew before?

A. Not in the service, not in the service.

Q. (39:47) But otherwise.

A. My wife's brother had passed away a year before, a nephew, and I had a couple of high school friends who passed away when I was in college, but that was the first having to do with that, but twenty-six of them was tough. September 11th up until about Christmas is a fog. Don't remember much of the specifics because it was just one service after another, after another.

Q. (40:23) Just kind of numb?

A. Just kind of numb and when I finally came back to the Pentagon on the 16th, I guess I really didn't realize the damage that was done, and you know how shut down this place was for that week. Because I had a class to teach, and I said Army auditorium wasn't near that. Go teach my class.

Q. (40:43) What class were you teaching?

A. PTBS, I teach the PTBS course.

Q. (40:51) OK.

A. And walking in the Pentagon it was just, it just, it hit you with just the smoke. You could still smell the smoke, and seeing the soot on the walls and everything. We had lost our house in Hawaii to a fire and that started bringing flashbacks of that back into it. Then trying to figure out

where our office was. I had been talking to people, but I had no idea where our, quote, office was, or where I worked. I found that in the Annex and we were in a room not much bigger than this. Maybe twice the size of this. All that was left and we were working with one table and one phone and we went back to you know, early 70s you know, paper, pencil and a phone, you know and we were doing business. We were just starting to make things happen that needed to happen and started doing the work that we needed to do to move forward. Some people were buried in that work. Some of us were buried in CACO work, but I think the thing that kept all of us together and moving forward was we were involved in something. Doing something positive, whether it be staffing, very short turn around issues and notices, or you know doing the CACO stuff.

But when I walked into the office, I still really didn't have a good grasp of who was you know, that week later, who had been lost. I finally got to see the list of names, because the names hadn't been released yet, because of all the, some of the political turmoil of, "my list is ready," "but my list isn't." You know, we want to release it all together.

So that's the first time I just sat down and started looking at the list. I knew all of these people, served with a third of them directly, either working for them, or having them work for me. That was a very sobering moment, but then we just blocked it out and went about our business. But it was different. It's still different, because we're not, we're still on our temporary status, and still, we're still doing important stuff, I guess we'll talk about it later for what I did.

But I think the last funeral that I attended was with CAPT. O'BRIEN. He was the assistant to the Rep 4, the escort for CAPT GETZFRED, who I had worked for in Hawaii. Just done wonderful things for me and took me under his wing and mentored and all this stuff and CAPT. O'BRIEN said, "Hey, the RYANs," ADMIRAL JOHN RYAN and NORB RYAN, because CAPT

GETZFRED had worked for both of them in Hawaii and other commands, you know. We were going to get a C-12 and going to go to CAPT GETZFRED's funeral in Illinois. Of course I knew his family and stuff from being in Hawaii with him and stuff so that was very nice to fly in there with the RYANs who had both, both CAPT O'BRIEN and I had worked for him. So I mean it was comforting to have those with us as we went and did that and represented the Navy and then went on to pay tribute to CAPT GETZFRED. That was the last service I went to.

Q. (44:30) It must have meant a lot to the family, you guys coming out.

A. I think it did, it did, and it worked out that ADMIRAL JOHN - NORB RYAN presented the flag to [REDACTED] and her kids. That was a special, a special moment. Something we'll never forget. But I still do the CACO stuff. I still do the escort stuff. You know, [REDACTED] due here in two weeks. We talk everyday. I still work through all the paperwork issues and stuff like that and have a phone list so I can take her to the hospital, because they only live a couple, less than a mile from me so, and amongst all this I mean, in November, Thanksgiving Day, [REDACTED] called me and says, "KEVIN, I need help."

I said, "What do you need?"

She says, "I'm at the hospital. My dad just had a stroke."

And so we got him through you know, that, and I've kind of adopted their folk as mine, my side of the family, because I don't have anything left on my side. So it's become a family thing. I know when her parents come in I mean, you know, my wife and [REDACTED] mom talk you know, decorating samples and you know we get together you know every time they're in town and either at their place or our place and talk everyday just to check in or see how she's doing. I know when her medical appointments are and you know.

Q. (46:00) Is that right?

A. I know, -

Q. (46:03) Wow!

A. I know I'm driving her to the hospital and we're waiting for her brother to get down there to help her to go through the actual delivery.

Q. (46:12) Does she know if she's going to have a boy or a girl?

A. It's going to be a girl, and it's going to be named [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], because that's where her and PAT met and then [REDACTED] for [REDACTED].

Q. (46:29) Wow

A. And I've done, we've done a couple of fundraisers for her. We've coordinated with a couple of places and done some specific fundraising for her specifically, you know, with St. Paul, not St. Paul, Paul the Sixth Catholic High School. Raised a little over six thousand dollars for her and had her over to the school a couple of times. I've done a couple of fundraising for some other famous, kind of in the November timeframe, October- November I kind of took on a role as point of contact with N3 N5 to set up little things for other families.

I'll get a phone call from an organization and they'll say we want to do something for a specific family.

Ok, what kind of, you know, "What do you want to do and who do you, you know what are you looking to do," and then go through the list of the families. Ok, this family meets what you're

looking for and set up a fundraiser for that – █████ WILLIAMS whose mother, her husband DAVID just made LT COMMANDER, they're expecting their third child. They have two little girls and she's due the exact same day –

Q. (47:40) Who_____

A. █████ WILLIAMS, she's due the exact same day as █████, and I happen to live literally in between both of them and I told them to keep, and they're going to two different hospitals and I said, "All right, here's the deal, you can't both have them on the same day."

(Chuckles)

I can't be in two places at once, but I set up a, helped coordinate a fundraiser for █████ for New Year's Eve. A family, a local family here in town wanted to do something personal for a family and had heard about █████ and stuff and they had a casino night at the Ritz Carlton, they rented out the ballroom. It's a private family, invited all their friends and they raised a little over \$8,000 that night for █████. That's kind of what I do now, as a side job.

Q. (48:34) With all your spare time.

A With all my spare time that's, keep track of whose doctor appointments are when and make sure they get the support they need.

Q. (48:43) Do you ever have the feeling that as far as being at a certain place at a prescribed time, just with all that you're helping with. I mean it's almost like you being there is almost meant to be.

A. Yes. Yes, why didn't I go down to the Command Center instead of _____, watch at home. There's some reason, destiny for me to be here, to do what I'm doing, and I don't know what it is. I don't know if I'll ever know.

Q. (49:25) Sounds like you're doing it.

A. But yeah, there's a reason for why I didn't go do certain things, or was in certain places and truly believe there is a destiny for all of us. We're supposed to be in certain places at certain time and do certain things. Maybe this was what I was here to do.

Q. (49:47) Wow.

A. Big guy will tell me when I get up to see him. Depending on whether I did a good job or not.
(chuckles)

Q. I think he's already smiling.

A. But that's, I mean that's just kind of my daily life. I check in with my family. I ensure, I make sure I make sure I kiss my wife, my daughter and my son goodbye every morning and I think we all kind of do that, even a war fighter, going on deployment, they always, in the back of their mind when they leave for that six thing –

Q. (50:30) Yeah.

A. But they don't think about that when they drive down 395 to go to work at the Pentagon you know. I mean it's little bit of (___ Inaudible) and stuff.

Q. (50:42) How has your family held up through all this?

A. Unbelievably strong. I mean my wife is the pillar of strength and I wish I could show her more, but when we get here she was diagnosed with breast cancer, and we lived through that and right after that diagnosis her brother died. So we struggled through all the surgeries and the chemotherapy and that type of thing.

Q. (51:09) That was fairly recent.

A. Yeah, that was '99 she was diagnosed, so and so she's still finishing up her, you know treatments and stuff with the cancer and stuff. And we had lost our house to a fire. So we had some tragedy's in our life, but nothing, you know, so that in it's self made us a little bit stronger and able to cope with some of the stuff, because though we didn't lose a loved one directly in the attack, we had suffered losses before and scares of mortality hits home and so for us it was a little, and I pull all my strength from my wife, because she's the one who does it all, but just I mean that type of thing almost prepared us to do what we're doing today. You know, in a weird sort of way through some of the tragedies that had we're able to provide support and understanding of what they were –

Q. (52:10) Wow.

A. Going through at some point, you know, and sometime. But again it's, I consider ██████████ almost like a sister. She's just a little sister that we've got to take care of for the rest of our lives. That's one thing that we learned through losing our house, through my wife's cancer, the Navy family really runs around it.

So that, I mean, you know, it's family now, but we've learned that through our tragedies, that the folks that you work with in the Navy family, I wouldn't know what to think you know, what's going on with the folks in New York, if their organizations, and you know the firefighters and the police have that type of relationship, but I don't know (52:59 _____ inaudible) has that type of relationship. But you know that's where we get our strength from, it's just a family atmosphere of what we do and people rally around each other and are more than willing to do whatever they need to do to help a comrade's family.

Q. (53:16) Wow, that's obviously a very key part of this whole story, this whole experience that everybody's been through.

Anything else you want to add about 9/11?

A. No, that's really my recollection. The other stuff has to do with the other side as far as what I've been doing and most of it's all at the secret level, so.

Q. (53:37) Before we leave this, during the whole time with the family, serving the role as a representative of N3/5, what would you say was the most profound moment, the most memorable moment of that time. I know there are probably many, but what, what sticks out in your mind just as I even ask that questions, what –

A. Dealing with the family was that Sunday when we had to go tell [REDACTED] that PAT had been identified. His status had changed to you know, dead, you know, and it was confirmed and that was probably the most thing that sticks out, and in my head –

Q. (54:16) You can still see that setting?

A. I can still see the setting.

Q. (54:24) I can see that as you tell it.

A. I can see it, because I can see, as I said before because PAT and I look very similar, I just remember his sister's eyes just looking at me going, "But you're there." You know, "You're right there."

You know it's just something I'll never forget. That's probably the most profound and then I think the next one will be when [REDACTED] delivers the baby.

Q. (54:53) Yeah, that's in a couple of weeks.

A. That's going to be a very wonderful day, but one of the, probably most difficult days for her. I'm not sure how we're going to do it, but we will.

Q. (55:07) One day at a time.

A. One day at a time. We're all on the twelve-step program here.

(chuckles)

Q. (55:15) Well, Kevin, I guess on behalf of the Naval Historical Center and on behalf of me as a fellow naval officer and as a fellow American, thank you for all that you have done and are doing.

A. That's what we're here for.

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Ms. Ethel Geary
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