

I, along with several other Crane people, have firsthand experience with war in the 21st century. As I'm sure you know by now, the Crane Public Management Certificate class was in the Pentagon when the terrorists struck. We were meeting with the Under Secretary of the Navy on the E ring, 5th floor, between the 4th and 5th corridors. I believe that put us almost directly above the strike area that later collapsed. By the grace of God and the work of some very professional and courageous security staff in the Pentagon, we were led to safety. I was extremely proud of the Crane team as we made our way through the smoke, heat, and darkness to safety.

I'm writing this on the bus ride back to Indiana, and after 24 hours I still find it unbelievable that our world and this Nation have changed forever. As we walked from the Pentagon to our hotel room, the sight and sounds of military and police helicopters and F18 fighter aircraft in the smoke-blackened sky above Washington made it clear to me that things have changed.

I have talked a lot lately about change and the importance of adapting to a changing environment, and how the people of Crane have always met and led the challenge. Well.... make no mistake, this is real change. It is clear to me that we now have another great national challenge before us. We must do our part to help pull the nation and our communities together to overcome this challenge as well.

As I write this, Crane people are transporting some recently developed equipment to Norfolk to assist in communicating with the Atlantic Fleet patrolling our eastern coastline. I'm sure many other CAAA and NSWC Crane people will be called upon to provide assistance from loading ordnance, outfitting special operations teams, providing anti-terrorist and force protection equipment, to providing technical assistance for the combat systems we support....and we will.

Let's pull together at this time of National need and do our part to Keep America #1 in the world.

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