

[Received October 09, 2001]

Many of you have asked for information about our experience; I will risk the inaccuracies of a memory fueled by terror and briefly share these bullets.

Maj [Joe D. Baker] and Peter [Murphy, Counsel for the Commandant] were meeting in Peter's ofc [room 4E468]; I was in and out watching news reports of the attack on the WTC. After the second plane attacked, I had Cpl [Garofola] check on the security status of the PNT. He reported back that it was "threatcon normal." He and I discussed the bldg's vulnerability, and the fact that it was increased since all eyes were glued to TV, and all thoughts were on NYC. I went to discuss the situation with Peter. The explosion occurred as I got to his door. We were thrown into the air; the floor buckled and separated along the expansion joint that separated Peter's ofc from mine; the ceiling began to fall in; the lights came down. We could see the fireball rolling up past the windows. We all made for the door but it was stuck shut. Cpl G wrenched it open. When we got into the hallway it was already filling with smoke. We met [LtCol Katherine Ashton] in the hall, accounting for all our people. We made toward the North end. The smoke was thicker and blacker that way, and someone came through the doorway yelling that there was fire in

that end. We turned and headed south in thick smoke now, holding onto each other like blind mice. When we came to the exp. joint, we could feel the heat from the fire and see flames through the floor. We doubled back, stopped to choose which risk to take, then heard someone shouting from the North end to follow the sound of his voice, that there was a way out. We

followed his voice-a young naval ofcr and my new hero, whoever he is-and made our way to the [5th corridor. The stairway south of the corridor was on fire. We made it past and moved toward the]interior and on to the South parking lot. Many, many people

were already helping.

You've seen to the photos of the PNT. The clean break along the left side of the gaping hole marks the line of the expansion joint. You can see directly into Peter's ofc. My office is on the ground along with Maj Lyon's.

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