

I am a FMS Case Manager with Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR), Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Program Office. I provide case management support to the Royal Saudi Naval Forces (RSNF) C3 Department. I share office space with the Navy International Programs Office/Saudi Naval Programs Office. The office is located at 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Crystal Gateway 3, Suite 1301, Arlington. The location provides a panoramic view of Washington DC from the Capital Building to The Pentagon. The Pentagon is just under one mile on a direct line of sight and just over one mile by foot.

Shortly after 0900 on Tuesday, 11 September 2001 we heard of the first airplane striking the World Trade Center. We gathered in the office of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces Assistant Defense Attaché for Naval Affairs and began watching events unfold on the television just after the second airplane struck. Although stunned and shocked, we speculated among ourselves if there would or could be an attack on any of the buildings and monuments in Washington DC. I had left the room and was walking back into the room facing the window when the airplane swooped into the Pentagon. I did not specifically see the airplane but I saw the explosion and the large fireball that immediately followed. I will never forget the image that I saw. We immediately began to evacuate the building. It was a tense and hectic few minutes. Once outside we stood in the open, not sure of what to do, as the smoke and debris fell on us. Since that time there has been a bomb scare in a building next to ours, which forced us to evacuate and a false fire alarm in which we had to evacuate again.

I hope this is of some help to you.

Rebecca K. Huefner