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NARRATIVE ACCOUNT
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Shortly after 0900 on 11 Sep, the started carrying the coverage of the first airplane crash into the World Trade Center (WTC). My Division Director, Mr Wes McNair, had a television in his office, 4D463, and he had alerted the staff that the horrific event had occurred. While we were watching, at approximately 0918, we watched live news as the second airplane flew into the South Tower. Those of us who saw this were in disbelief. But after the second attack, I think the group was pretty sure that the attacks were acts of terrorism. At 0930, my immediate supervisor and myself left 4D455 and proceeded to 4E459 to review a briefing for Indiana University with the FMB Associate Director, Mr Robert Panek. The review of the briefing started at 0930, although we discussed the tragic events at the World Trade Center for a few minutes. At 0945, we heard a single explosion towards the outside of the E-Ring. Shortly thereafter, the shockwave from the explosion passed through the office and knocked us out our chairs and the ceiling started to collapse. Ceiling tiles, lights, wiring and pieces of concrete, from the floor above, were falling around us in the office. As we were trying to regain composure at the table, Mr Panek and I looked out the window and saw a cloud of billowing orange flame which encompassed both of the windows in his office. As all three of us were dumbfounded. After a couple of seconds, Mr Panek finally said, "I think we'd better leave."

We apprehensively moved out into the vestibule that connected Mr Panek's office to the secretary's office. Much of the ceiling had collapsed or was hanging in disarray from its overhead supports. There was moderate grey smoke in the office as we departed. I noted that Admiral Church (FMB), the secretary and the Flag Writer were not in the office. We then moved out into the E-Ring corridor. There was a four foot in diameter hole in the ceiling which had collapsed from the floor of the fifth floor just to the left of the doorway. The ceiling had essentially collapsed where we were with lights and wiring and ceiling tile framing hanging down from the overhead. Smoke at the doorway was moderate grey smoke with acrid odor. As I looked down the E_Ring past the fourth corridor toward corridor, I could see heavy black smoke. Based on the hole in the ceiling and heavier smoke about 75 to 100 feet down from our position, I believed that the explosion had occurred further down toward the third corridor. It took about 10 seconds to work our way through the dangling debris hanging down from overhead to get to the fourth corridor. By then I could see that the smoke was now heavy and black in the E-Ring, but the fourth corridor was significantly better. As we proceeded up the fourth corridor, the smoke lightened significantly. When we reached the intersection of the D-Ring and fourth

corridor, atmospheres were almost normal with very light smoke in the overhead. I saw people trickling out of the D-Ring where my office is located, so I decided to go into the D-Ring (4D455) to make sure people got out and to grab my briefcase. My briefcase was important because I had a cell phone and I figured that communications would be strained at best once departing the building so I thought the phone would come in handy. Also, there didn't appear to be significant damage to the D-Ring office other than some light smoke and the power was out. I knew this because the emergency strobe lights were on near my desk. After checking to see that all personnel had departed, I grabbed my briefcase and exited 4D455 with my division director, Mr McNair. On the way out, I saw CDR Doug Borrebach's pentagon badge on the floor and picked it up figuring he would need it later. When Mr McNair and I got back into the fourth corridor, the smoke in the E-Ring was now a solid black veil through which you could see people coming out of from the E-ring. We proceeded up the fourth corridor toward the A-Ring now contemplating the best route to get out of the building. We generally followed the crowd which was moving toward the Main Concourse, but I was worried that those exits would be jammed with everyone trying to get out. When we got down to the Main Concourse, my fears were confirmed, however, some proactive building Security personnel opened up some emergency exits that led out near the base of the second corridor at the vehicle entryway into the center courtyard.

As soon as I got out into the parking lot, I used the cell-phone to call my wife. I told her I was okay and that I would call her back once I was able to get away from the Pentagon. She told me that the news had reported in Fredericksburg that they thought a helicopter may have crashed that was flying in the vicinity of the building. That made sense to me based on the damage I had seen being localized to the E-Ring between the 3rd and 4th corridor and the damage to the ceiling and the hole in the ceiling outside 4E459.

Once out in the parking lot, I linked up with two other personnel from the FMB Staff and we tried to make sure we talked to as many people from our staff as possible to make sure we knew people we alright and they knew we were alright. The three of us had cell phones, but for whatever reason mine was the only one that had worked. We moved toward the tunnel in South Parking that goes to Pentagon City Mall. Near the tunnel, we saw others from our Staff, but the cell phones stopped working altogether. The amount of cell phone traffic was no doubt saturating any nearby relay towers. We decided to go through the tunnel and try the phones on the other side of the interstate. Same result, the phones were a lost cause. One of the personnel I was with decided to go into the Mall and use a land line to contact his family. The other friend and I proceeded south toward the Pentagon City Metro Station. About 100 yards from the station, I tried my wife again and the phone worked. She told me that the news was now reporting that an airplane had flown into the Pentagon. My friend gave my wife his wife's number so she could relay a message to that he was okay. Another lady who works in the

Pentagon saw that my phone was working and she used my phone to contact her husband as well.

We then proceeded to the Metro Station where we caught a southbound Blue Line train to Franconia Springfield. I was able to catch a bus home from the Metro Station and got there about 1400.

It was until I saw the overhead shots on the news that I realized that the plane entered the building at the fourth corridor, literally went two floors below the office I was in at 4E459, then went through the D-Ring two floors below my desk and subsequently damaged the C-Ring as well.

To this day the only way I can understand why the E-Ring didn't collapse immediately as plane went under us was that the plane apparently hit the ground and started breaking up before it hit the building. This allowed the wings and tail section to fold up and go straight into the building, sort of like a shotgun blast. The office that I was in with two other people, reviewing a briefing, (4E459) no longer exists. It collapsed about 45 minutes after the attack. In fact if you look at the open end of the building away from the fourth corridor, the fourth floor office that faces the D-Ring is the remains of where I was when the attack occurred. Even more amazing was no one from our staff on the fourth floor near the fourth corridor was injured or killed in the attack.

That's my story as best I can recollect from 11 Sep. My immediate supervisor, Ms Mary Kay Tompa, and the FMB Associate Director can confirm this account.