

Interview with Lieutenant Aubrey Davis
and Sgt. Gilbert Oldach
July 20, 2006
Final

[Diane] Putney: Lieutenant Davis, would you state your name and what your rank and job were on September 11, 2001?

Davis: I am Aubrey Davis. I was Officer Davis at the time with the Protective Service Unit for the Defense Protective Service. On 9/11 I recall Mr. Jester coming to the office. We were sitting there watching CNN TV when we saw a plane fly into one of the World Trade Center Towers. When we next looked up, I thought it was a tape rerun, but it was the second plane going into the Tower. At that point we looked at each other and knew that this was warning us to prepare to get Secretary Rumsfeld out of the building and what measure we would utilize to transport Secretary Rumsfeld to a safe location. We anticipated that the Cabinet members would meet to determine the next course of action. We didn't know what we had on our hands at that time.

At that point Mr. Jester came through and said, "Let's get prepared to get Secretary Rumsfeld out of here." I went up and motioned to Officer Oldach, and he said he would be right up. As I proceeded to Secretary Rumsfeld's front door I saw Dr. Cambone. He said they were getting ready to get him out of there, and it was a good thing we were up there. At that point I heard a rumbling noise. I thought it was something rolling down the escalator, like a big canister or something, because sometimes when they push carts through here you can hear it on all the floors. As I looked down the hall toward the secretary's Mess one of the mess sergeants, Felix Green, came running out saying, "Aubrey, they're bombing the building!" As I was listening on my radio I was hearing a report of an explosion at the Mall Entrance, the Mall being the Corridor

6 side. That was the initial statement that came over, that we had an explosion or an aircraft had hit the Mall side of the building, the 6th Corridor.

At that point I was still standing there in amazement, and the secretary came out the door and asked what was going on. I told him we were getting a report that an aircraft had hit the Mall side of the building. He looked at me and immediately went toward the Mall. I said, "Sir, do you understand, that's the area of impact, the Mall." He kept going, so I told Officer Oldach, to come on. I saw Mr. Kisling, Joe Wassell, and Kevin Brown sitting in the personnel security office, and I waved for them to come on, "He's going to the site of the impact, let's go."

As we proceeded down the hallway on the 3rd Floor from the 8th Corridor, to the 7th Corridor, we saw personnel running from that area, and we dropped down to the 2nd Floor. The secretary was walking fast, and we were walking fast with him. As we proceeded down that hallway, a colonel ran up with a cut on his forehead and said, "Sir, it's dangerous, don't go down there." We kept proceeding that way. As the smoke infiltrated the area we had arrived on the Mall, and he said "I thought you said the Mall?" I said, "Sir, now I'm getting reports that it was the Heliport that the aircraft struck." We were on the 2nd Floor at that time, at Corridor 6, between 6 and 7. We proceeded through the smoky area, we had already seen the colonel, and we had to drop down to the 1st Floor. At this point it was still kind of obscured, but we saw some light. One of the doors at Corridor 5, I guess, had been pushed open where people were running out, and that's where we saw some light. We walked toward that, and as we walked out we looked at the side of the building, and it was engulfed in flames. I remember the secretary reaching down and picking up a piece of the plane with the name of the aircraft or something on it. He said, "This is American" or something.

Putney: He could identify it?

Davis: Yes, he could read the inscription. I told him that was part of the evidence; he needed to leave that there. As we proceeded out, I guess it was a warm day; it was warm when we came up there. We looked out and saw some captain from OSD Cables who was yelling, "Help! I need help with a victim." We ran over to the victim and carted him over to the sidewalk on Washington Boulevard. That's where they have footage of us pushing the cart. We were still maintaining integrity of security, because this could have been a diversion. We went to that side and at that point someone ran up to the secretary asking for help. The secretary asked him what he needed, and he motioned to his communication guy, Wassel. He said "Tell him what you need." He said we need helicopters and such. He gave that gentleman to Mr. Wassel. We were still trying to get him off the site of impact. We heard that Park Police Eagle One was going to land to take him out of there. The secretary said "No, if they land they will use it to transport the injured."

Putney: Were you the only two security people with him? Wassel and the other two were his staff?

Oldach: Yes, his trip coordinators, personal staff.

Putney: So there were five who went out with him?

Davis: Yes.

Putney: Would you state your name and rank on September 11 and what position you held on that day?

Oldach: My name is Gilbert Oldach. I was an officer that day with the Defense Protective Service. My job that day was protecting Secretary Rumsfeld. He was one of my primaries. The other people in the office had other primaries, like the chairman, Mr. Wolfowitz, etc.

Putney: Were you part of a Special Protective Unit at that time? Were you always going to be protecting the VIPs, the secretary and the JCS chairman, day in and day out? But you might not always have the same primary?

Oldach: Nine times out of ten it was the most senior people protecting him, or the ones that Secretary Rumsfeld felt comfortable with.

Davis: Within a Protective Service Unit under DPS, we had a lieutenant, Lieutenant Nathaniel Wright, in charge of our unit, he was a sergeant at that time. I was an officer.

Oldach: I was an officer also.

Putney: What were you doing that morning right before the plane hit?

Oldach: Looking over the itinerary of the day—what was going on within the building—checking out Secretary Rumsfeld's schedule to see what movements we had, getting the daily report from CNN to see what was going on in the world, and reading our intel reports.

Putney: Where were you doing this vis-à-vis where the secretary's office was?

Oldach: We were one floor below, directly underneath him.

Putney: The stairwell was very close by.

Oldach: Yes; the escalator and the stairwell, yes.

Putney: What do you recall feeling and hearing when the plane hit?

Oldach: Just like Lieutenant Davis said. He was the lead in front of the secretary and Secretary Rumsfeld was leading him. It was such a chaotic day, my role was to keep my back to his back to make sure nobody ran up on us, because we didn't know what was going on that day. Other than his getting a little excited because he didn't like people close to him, the whole time I was reaching out trying to feel where he was while we were walking down hallways and corridors. We didn't know what to expect that day.

Putney: Who doesn't like it—the secretary?

Oldach: He doesn't like to be close up or to have people touching him.

Putney: So you keep your distance.

Oldach: But that day it was a little different.

Putney: Right, you were feeling extra worry. Were you aware that Chief Jester had raised the Force Protection Condition by that time, or does it matter to you folks, since you always have a special mission on Delta level?

Davis: We always have a special mission within the Protective Service Unit, to protect our principal, and that basically blocks out everything else. Anytime we have a situation where there is movement you might as well say we are already at that level, always on heightened alert.

Putney: That morning you were in charge of that DPS unit to guard the primary, who was the secretary.

Davis: At that point, I was the first one up there so I was in charge.

Putney: Before the plane hit, you were watching as everyone was, CNN.

Davis: We had seen the Tower incident, and when we saw what we thought was a replay, it was a second plane. Mr. Jester came down and said let's get ready to get the secretary out. I told him we were already headed up that way. Kind of like you were in awe . . . But then everything clicked: "Let's go."

Putney: So you were actually in the hallway when the plane hit the building? You were in the E Ring?

Davis: Yes. I was standing right in front of 3E880, at the door to his office. That's when I heard a rumbling noise, thinking something was falling down the escalator. That's when one of the cooks from the Mess said they were bombing the building. I was listening to the radio, and it

was telling me that there had been an explosion or a plane had hit the Mall, on the Corridor 6 side. That's where the Secretaries of the Army, the Navy, and Marine Corps were.

Putney: You are getting that from your DPS Comm Center—Lt. Nesbitt. DPS officers are calling in to him, and he's feeding it to you.

Oldach: We were both hearing the same thing.

Putney: I wondered how, when the secretary came out, he knew which way to go, because I knew he moved toward the crash site. This fills in the gap, right here.

Davis: He asked what was going on, and I told him I was getting reports of an explosion at the Mall Entrance. An aircraft or something has hit the Mall Entrance. He went towards that, and I said, "Sir, do you realize you are going toward the Mall Entrance?" At that point we were trying to keep him contained.

Putney: Did you hear alarms or were you too far away that the alarms weren't activating where you were? You heard the individual who came out and said "We've been bombed." Did you see other people running out? Did it look unusual to you, not just the normal quiet E Ring? Had the chaos just not gotten this far?

Davis: It looked normal. When Mr. Jester said that, I said we were on it. I walked up and saw Dr. Cambone walking toward us, and he said, "Hey guys, we are getting ready." I said, "Yes sir," and he went in. The situation was also that when we were out there the Communications Center kept asking where the secretary was, and I kept saying we had him. I think they were talking to our office. Sgt. Thomas was saying, "My guys got him." As we were calling them, they couldn't hear. I could hear them saying, "Dr. Cambone wants to know where the secretary is; Adm. G. wants to know where the secretary is." For that moment, we were standing there, and the secretary was the only one that came out. I was wondering, where were the other office

people. None of them came out. He just came out the door and said, "What's going on?" It wasn't like a bunch of people running.

Putney: You don't hear an alarm or do you remember hearing an alarm of some sort?

Oldach: I just remember when we dropped down that one, the colonel with the gash in his head, came out and said there was a ton of smoke coming behind him, and so we dropped down again.

Putney: He was by himself when he came out; did he run or was he walking quickly?

Davis: He walked very quickly. When he went that way, I was behind, initially, and I waved to Wassel to come on because I couldn't stop the secretary from going that way. I proceeded to the front. Oldach and I knew we had more men, even though they weren't armed.

Putney: He knew you at that point and knew you were on duty that day. He was going whether you were going along or not.

Davis: After that, his wife said we must have thought he was crazy. I said, no, I knew we had a job to protect him wherever he went. I recalled him being in the Navy and was like the captain going down with the ship—he was going to make sure everything was OK before he went back. Wherever he was going, I was going.

Putney: He was thinking it was at the Mall, so he did walk around to that Mall side. What floor was he on when he said, "I thought you said it was at the Mall?"

Davis: We were on the 2nd Floor, coming down the little staircase. He said, "I thought you said the Mall." I said, "I'm getting reports now that it's the Heliport side, where they land the choppers." We proceeded down that hallway with smoke.

Oldach: We were in smoke and finally saw that light.

Putney: What was that light? What's causing the light?

Oldach: The doors were open and the sun was coming in. You could see the light.

Putney: You were going to go out through those doors then. Can you identify on this map where those doors are?

Davis: They are right on the corner of Corridor 5. They are right here, some emergency exit doors, on the corner right next to the building.

Oldach: There is a barrier on the road that lets only certain cars through.

Putney: Is that the one that took the film?

Oldach: That's the Mall Plaza booth.

Putney: That door must have been open, but you could only go out, not come in. Someone said there was a door that no one could exit from on the Mall side. Why was that?

Davis: The Mall is on the second floor. When they bust out the 2nd Floor, there were only 2 doors. One by the Correspondents Corridor, and one here. The 1st Floor is like a moat; it's underground. You can push out and come up. That area, the 2nd Floor, gives you access to the basement. You can only access the basement from the 7th, 8th, and 9th Corridor.

Putney: When you came out on the 1st Floor, you were deeper, you had to walk up?

Oldach: No, we were on ground level.

Putney: That's where you saw the light.

Davis: From this side you can't see the light because it is like a dungeon with a moat around it.

Putney: So he was that close when he exited, and immediately he could have seen –

Davis: Right here to the side he saw debris and picked up a piece of the aircraft and read what airline it was.

Putney: When you first came out were you at an angle that you could see flames or smoke?

Oldach: I felt it more than saw it, because I was walking backwards.

Putney: You're literally back to back. You mentioned that before, and I thought that was a figure of speech—you were just watching his back.

Oldach: No, I was walking backward, looking this way. I counted on him to have the whole front view, and he counted on me to have the back view, because we were the only two and had to do a 360.

Davis: So were we doing the 360, the principal is right there, I'm right there, and he is right there.

Oldach: I knew from the training we had together in other missions that if something kicked off like it did, it was up to us. If he had the lead I knew his parameters, and he knew mine. I felt it more as we walked and then he said to run, and I had to turn around and run a little bit with him sideways. I felt it first, more than I could see it.

Putney: When the secretary first got out there and saw it or saw debris, did he say anything or ask any questions?

Oldach: One time he turned to us and asked us to get some help. I pointed to two colonels and a captain and asked them to come with us. I went to the military because they take orders a lot quicker. I figured that since they saw us with the boss they would come, which they did, and helped out. I don't remember their names.

Putney: Did you smell the fuel? Did that stay with you?

Oldach: The only thing that stands out to me is that I smelled the lady we helped out once. She was so burnt that I thought she was white, but she was black. Her first layer of skin was burnt off.

Davis: I thought stockings were rolled down.

Oldach: It happened so quickly. We helped out quite a few that day, still trying to get Secretary Rumsfeld out of there. There were still planes in the air that we were still hearing about.

Putney: He picked up something. Describe the debris that you were looking at. Was there a lot?

Oldach: It was crushed up metal and insulation everywhere.

Davis: The Heliport tower was enveloped in flames. A friend of ours worked there, Sergeant Boger (sp?), and his vehicle was sitting there burning. As I walked out I just looked to the side, felt the heat, and saw the flames running up the side of the building. After we cleared that area we saw someone who was yelling that they needed help. He went that way and we went with him.

Putney: How many people were there? Was it the lady or who did the secretary help initially?

Davis: We were talking about that. We can't even recall the people we helped, if they were survivors or if any of the ones we tried to help made it.

Putney: What exactly did the secretary do to help?

Davis: Some of the medical units were there, and they ran over with a gurney.

Putney: With wheels or was it a manual?

Oldach: It was manual.

Davis: I thought it had

Oldach: We got that lady on there; actually I can't recall if it was a man or woman.

Davis: It was a stretcher.

Putney: A burn victim? A victim? A badly burned victim?

Oldach: I remember a couple of badly burned victims and a couple of victims that we put out to the side to sit on the railing who weren't as badly hurt, but they were gashed by glass and such.

We did a quick assessment. At least they were talking and walking.

Putney: So the secretary ran to the stretcher?

Davis: Yes, Wassel, Kevin Brown, and Kisling actually grabbed the thing. I didn't actually grab it because I was still locked into the situation.

Oldach: There is a film of one that you were grabbing with the secretary.

Davis: I don't think I had the gurney.

Putney: They were heading towards Route 27?

Oldach: Yes, away from the fire.

Davis: They took that position right here and placed people on the sidewalk because Route 27 was by then shut down. That's when we finally got him to stay here; we said it was too dangerous to keep going over there. It was still burning, crackling.

Oldach: There were still explosions.

Davis: At that point I remember a man running up to the secretary saying they needed this and that and him pointing out Mr. Wassel as his communication guy, who'd get him what he needed. At that point we were finally able to get him to go back in the building. The Army CID tried to come around with their vehicle and got stopped, so we walked around the sidewalk back into the Mall Entrance. We went up to the 3rd Floor and back down to his office. We have the keys so we opened the door.

Putney: What prevented the CID car from getting through?

Oldach: They didn't have communications with us at the site, they were stuck at the barrier going up to the Mall Entrance.

Davis: Even though it was a parking lot they were going against traffic, down 27.

Putney: After you put the first victim down by the road, over the rail, where the helicopter could pick them up, did he go back and help anyone else?

Davis: I thought we had a reprieve. When we did the first victim then some other people got him. When we got to that sidewalk, we were finally able to get him to go back. We knew what he had to do, but we were saying we had to notify his boss; we were all in the moment.

Oldach: We were really preaching that it is really dangerous.

Putney: His adrenaline was going.

Davis: We were all in the moment.

Putney: He was focused on helping victims. Was this the first time he got a direct view of the impact site? He didn't go around just to get the direct view, he was helping people and saw it from Rte 27?

Davis: He was talking to the military, getting information.

Oldach: While walking back up he was looking back at the building.

Putney: You walked around and reentered at the Mall.

Davis: At that point everyone was standing outside, and we walked back into the smoke.

Putney: The second airplane coming in—we think this is the one that crashed in Pennsylvania. Were you out there with him still, when you got word of that?

Davis: I think that's after we were in.

Oldach: When it crashes?

Davis: The second aircraft.

Putney: The one that was going to crash in Pennsylvania. The fire chief pulled the firefighters away at about 10:15 because he got an FBI report of another plane on the way to Washington.

Davis: At 10:00 a.m. we were in the building.

Putney: So is that your best estimate of being back in?

Oldach: It seemed like forever out there.

Davis: We were in the building about 10:00. It happened at 9:36, and we were there by 9:40 at the latest. We did what we did. At about 9:56 or 10:00 we started walking back in. We unlocked the door, and he did whatever he had to do, and we walked from there over to Cables, where the ESC was.

Oldach: I think almost everyone was in there by the time he got there—Admiral G., Dr. Cambone, Clarke—

Putney: You knew they were looking for him; why couldn't you communicate via Nesbitt, in the Communications Center, to get word to them?

Davis: I guess there was too much traffic over the radio. Officers were asking for help at certain areas. I asked people later what they were doing that day, and they said there was a herd of people at the Metro and the Concourse. We were focused, we couldn't hear all the traffic, and I'm sure Communications couldn't hear all the traffic. We were just saying we had him, I don't know how much of that was heard over the radio. "We got him." "He's with us."

Putney: Anyway, Cambone had seen you. You were not there. The secretary was not there. He could assume you were with him.

Davis: As I look back, obviously they all knew to go to the ESC. When he came out of the door, I wondered why no one was with him. I asked Cathy Menority (sp?) personal confidential assistant, and she said that Admiral G had told her that they had to go somewhere for safety. During that time frame, we wondered why he was the only one at his door.

Putney: You were inside when you learned there could be a second airplane coming toward the Pentagon. The FBI gave word to Chief Schwartz and they thought it was a valid report. They called the firefighters away, assuming that since a second plane had hit the second Tower another one could be coming here. Do you remember getting a report like this? Does this ring a bell?

Oldach: I remember another plane in the air, but they didn't know where it was.

Putney: There was yet another plane in the afternoon. But about 10:15 a.m. or so it was such a realistic warning that Chief Schwartz, the incident commander, pulled the firefighters away and there was a countdown for about 20 minutes. Were you getting a countdown over your radio? Fifteen minutes out Ten minutes out. . . .

Davis: We wouldn't get it here; we were inside a secure area, and I don't think the transmissions would have made it through to our radios. We were in the Cables room, and we were focused on our primary at that point. From there we went to Post 17 and went down into the NMCC work center. That's when the Army CID, MP5s, and others met us down there.

Oldach: They were transporting some of their people down to the AOC to pick up others—the Army chief of staff, Air Force, because everybody had hunkered down within the building. Nobody wanted to leave. I remember having a meeting after the fact. In a situation like that either one, three, the secretary or the chairman, or the deputy or vice chairman. I think the chairman wasn't here.

Putney: He was on his way from Europe.

Davis: We didn't start leaving until 2:00.

Oldach: I can't remember when they flew out the deputy. Late in the afternoon they choppered him out from the lawn by the river.

Putney: You remember it was that late?

Oldach: It was late. It was up to the secretary, but he wouldn't go.

Putney: So you were in the ESC and went down to the NMCC, you still couldn't hear. Perhaps you folks did not know of that second airplane on the way, around 10:15.

Davis: We may not have heard, but the NMCC definitely did.

Davis: They pretty much know everything, their crisis team. I don't know how bad the phones were, how they would have gotten information.

Putney: They were in touch with the FAA, and the FAA is passing it to the FBI.

Davis: Just as we coordinate through JCS and NMCC on a conference call. I'm sure someone knew within that group.

Putney: Cambone really wanted the secretary to leave and so did Wolfowitz. Wolfowitz kept saying somebody should leave, and Rumsfeld told him to go to the alternate site. Then Secretary of the Army White went. The secretary first went to the Executive Support Center, and it got crowded, and the screens weren't very big so they went down to the NMCC and spent a lot of time there.

Davis: We stayed there the rest of the day.

Putney: Could you describe how many people were there and the conditions? Was there smoke in there?

Davis: Yes, smoke is also there. It wasn't as bad. I think we were on one level and went down where the secretary and some other dignitaries went into another room, and we were on the outside in the room where they had the open cubicle space.

Oldach: They had the TVs and could talk to anyone they needed to.

Putney: He's talking to the vice president and gets the order to shoot down any other airliners on the way if it is determined that they were going to hit another target.

Davis: As the day goes on, we stayed there all day. I was going out about 6:00 p.m. and Senator Warner and Senator Levin showed up. We went out with the Secretary for the press briefing around 7:00 p.m.

Putney: Did he not go to the site with the two senators?

Davis: Yes, we walked back up there. We escorted them back there, and they did a press briefing.

Putney: Then they came back in the building and the regular briefing room.

Oldach: Did Mr. Tenet come that night or the next night because he came out at 12:00 or 1:00 at night. It was real late, did anybody stay for that?

Davis: I think it was the next night. We left around 12:30 or 1:00.

Putney: You were aware of the president coming from Florida that morning? He would have flown to Andrews on Air Force One. Then the Marine One helicopter was going to land at the Pentagon Heliport. How did you know that, and is it true that the president was due to land there that morning?

Oldach: When they left that was the plan, he was supposed to fly back.

Putney: When they left on the 10th?

Oldach: Yes, that was the plan; it was the only thing we had to go on at that time, because they don't give out advance notice of where he is going to land.

Davis: I'm trying to remember who the agent was –

Oldach: Was it Craig Ulmer?

Davis: We have a liaison for the area of the Pentagon, DoD, and Arlington. That's what had been discussed. We had already developed a contingency plan where we would have our counter snipers on the road with all sorts of reserve. That's how we would set up a scene for an arrival, a motorcade set up on a roadway. We had that set up for 12:30 tentatively, and then they would call about whether it would happen or not. The agents would call about an hour prior to let us know. We had already tentatively looked into that plan to coordinate with DPS.

Putney: DPS does certain things, not just the Secret Service. You have certain responsibilities, and you already had plans for different contingencies.

Davis: We had coordinated with the watch commander for the day as far as how many personnel they had available, etc. We coordinated all those things for tight security for any visiting dignitaries, like the secretary hosting his counterparts. We coordinated those things for DPS; we coordinated on manpower. We are just plain clothes police officers.

Putney: That day you were in civilian plain clothes?

Davis: When you are assigned to a Protective Service Unit it's always plain clothes. We are always in plain clothes when we are assigned to the secretary. We have one now that has 15 or 20 personnel, and they are always in street clothes.

Putney: The Army CID also has the responsibility for protecting the secretary. Secretary Cambone talked about the "Ninja Knights" appearing.

Davis: That's our team.

Putney: Was he referring to the DPS SWAT, or the Army CID folks?

Davis: The DPS SWAT, because they wore black. We all wear black.

Putney: The Army CID doesn't wear black?

Davis: They wear suits. Everyone on the Protective Service team with DPS were Emergency Response Team members.

Putney: The Emergency Response Team is SWAT?

Davis: Yes, for DPS. It was the Emergency Service Team then, now it is the Emergency Response Team, for the Pentagon, for the secretary. We were all members of the Emergency Response Team at that point to actually be assigned to the Protective Service Unit.

Oldach: You had to have certain physical and mental standards to get into the SWAT.

Davis: Any time we needed additional help they were on the auxiliary service command. The auxiliary unit before now was the Special Operations Division, but they were our go-to initial personnel, because we all cross-trained together. We did dignitary protection training with the Army, and we went through the SWAT school special reaction team with the Army also. We used them initially and used our regular uniformed officers as our exterior. We were the close-in perimeter, and they were the exterior perimeter.

Putney: The DPS SWAT team showed up—would they have stayed there with the secretary all day?

Davis: They were with us as support. We did have some Emergency Response Teams, but they weren't in the close-in area. Some were down there or at the exterior of the NMCC as an additional measure, provided with a regular officer without additional training. They were also there. As far as being here in this area, no.

Putney: Would they have been outside protecting the firefighting incident command post?

Davis: No, they wouldn't have done that. It was chaotic. The Emergency Response Team is usually housed up at the Navy Annex. We also have a training division and everything up there.

Putney: So Stout came down?

Davis: Yes, he was a lieutenant. All those personnel come from there as assets available for the Pentagon; people in training and everyone came down. That's who established the perimeter for Major Stout initially, and helping people to safety, escorting the fire department personnel. As far as pulling the firefighters off, we were in the building, we don't know.

Putney: Someone called out that another plane was coming, and people ran away by the thousands.

Davis: They said they had people swarming all over South Parking. And in lanes 26 to 36 they were just standing out there. All we were focused on was the principal, the primary.

Putney: Who was your immediate supervisor that day?

Davis: Sergeant Bobby Thomas—he is still with Protective Services.

Putney: Did you see him? Did he come down and talk to you?

Davis: He knew that we were the two most experienced personnel, so he was relying on us to know what to do. I think we got a call in to him once to tell him that we were here and that was it. It was only sparingly that you could get through on the phone. We were units 81 and 84 or 85, so there was a lot to keep track of. He knew we had the secretary. We were calling our location in. Who was hearing it

Putney: Did Chief Jester come around during the day to talk to you or did you see him talking to the secretary?

Davis: I saw him at the River Entrance. Our lieutenant was off that day, and he came in and gave us some type of masks because of the smoke, and at that point I was able to walk out to the River Entrance; we may have been getting ready to go to that briefing.

Oldach: I think we stayed in Cables and the NMCC the whole time. Remember I brought in cokes. . . .

Putney: Wherever the secretary went you would have gone with him. He goes to his office

Davis: Yes. We had to let him in. They had locked the place up.

Putney: He eventually went over to the White House, and the president addressed the nation.

Did you go with him, or when he left the Pentagon Reservation you handed him over to the CID?

Oldach: No, the CID.

Putney: The Army picks it up, it's their responsibility. What time did you leave the Pentagon that night?

Oldach: 12:30 or 1:00.

Davis: Basically, we could say we were tired, but we had people who couldn't even say that, and that motivated us. People gave the ultimate sacrifice, they were in a regular office building; who would have thought this could happen. We just kept going on adrenaline. We would come in at 5:00, stay until 12:00, 10:30 or 11:00 and come right back the next morning.

Putney: Did you come back on September 12th?

Oldach: About 5:00 a.m.

Putney: What was that like?

Oldach: It was hectic, and smoky, because the building was still on fire. The jet fuel was still burning. They were just getting normal operations back. Some electrical was still out, but not in our section, thank God, not yet.

Davis: I'm still trying to remember—did he come back the next day? Every day at 6:00 a.m. he would come and do an inspection. That's when we would go to the site, would meet Lieutenant Stout, would walk through to get updates and situation reports.

Putney: Did that start on the 12th?

Oldach: I don't think it started on the 12th, because he was still getting briefed. We were still having a lot of dignitaries coming over to see what was going on. He was greeting a lot of people.

Putney: About these visits. . . . On the 13th, did he come from his residence?

Davis: When he came in in the morning, the first thing in the morning he would stop at the site to see what was going on. We would coordinate with Lieutenant Stout to determine the time,

gate, and checkpoint we would use to go to the site. The Secretary wanted to walk through the site and get an update on the situation.

Putney: Would he drive in from home in his limousine, stop at the gate, and would you be there to pick him up?

Davis: The PSO and CID would get out also.

Putney: He would walk from one gate to another, and the car would drive around; he would want an update on what had happened during the past 24 hours. You were walking along with him. Were you still doing the "360s?"

Oldach: It wasn't as bad at that time, but there were still a lot of people around. It was secure inside the fence by then and there were people posted around the area.

Davis: I think on the 13th the POTUS came.

Putney: The 12th.

Davis: I think he went to New York, choppered up there, and came down. I can't recall.

Oldach: He motorcaded in. It was hard because there was another motorcade coming in with a lot of cars. There was a 30-car motorcade, and we had to coordinate that with another big one on 27.

Davis: There might have been some of the cabinet members with him; they had different details.

Putney: The flag was draped on the side of the building, a huge garrison flag, on the 12th, when the president was there. We have photos that help with the time line. I'm going to stop for a moment and turn the tape over.

Oldach: I thought that Dr. Armstrong was the historian for OSD.

Putney: General Armstrong? David Armstrong is the JCS historian.

Oldach: I see him every day.

Putney: Dr. Goldberg is Secretary Rumsfeld's historian. When they were doing Wedge 1, we moved out. Our office would not have been in the direct path of the plane, but there would have been smoke and water damage where we used to be. We were part of that first swing move to get outside the building to free up Wedge 1 for renovation. They moved the Wedge 1 people out into leased buildings. Wedge 2 people moved into Wedge 1.

Is there anything else about the 11th we haven't talked about that might help us to understand what happened that day?

Oldach: That we couldn't get him away from the crash site, that was our main concern—getting people off the X.

Davis: We were out there; but it was like time stood still. We were back in by at least 10:00, but once the initial thing happened it was not more than 2 or 3 minutes before we were actually on site. The smoke. The colonel with the cut: "It's too dangerous don't go that way." The first floor does not have a lot of lighting, so when we walked, and I saw the light, the door was open. As I walked out and looked to the side, the building was engulfed in flames.

Putney: The secretary picked up something and said this is such and such, the airliner name. You remember him saying he saw the airline company's name on the debris.

Davis: He was definitely able to say it was an American aircraft. He wanted to keep it in his office, but we asked him to leave it there.

Oldach: I believe they gave him a piece after that. He has one of them in his office now, but it is a different one from what he picked up. We came across that captain who worked in Cables, and he was the one who actually yelled to us.

Putney: There was another man— Capt. Lincoln Liebner. The secretary quizzed someone who was out there on what he had seen, saying "Tell me everything that you saw."

Davis: He was parked in lane 4 or 5 in South Parking. He was coming to work and gave us information. We heard him holler, and we ran over. He was just coming on duty.

Putney: You didn't realize the collapse had occurred until you got back inside. How did you learn of it? You were watching something or someone told you?

Oldach: We saw it on the TV. When we were out there it didn't collapse yet and everything was intact but burning.

Putney: That helps place it in time.

Oldach: They say it was about a half-hour before it fell.

Davis: They said they pulled them back at a certain time.

Putney: The fire department had certain seismic equipment and knew the structure was very unstable. They could pull people back because they knew it was going to collapse. At the same time the FBI agent was giving Chief Schwartz intelligence because he was right at his side with a radio, and the FBI asked the FAA if they were sure about another airplane, and it was confirmed by the FAA and FBI headquarters that one was on its way. So the chief told the firefighters to pull everyone completely away. Then DPS got on the radios and told everybody to move farther away because of another airplane.

Oldach: We didn't hear any more once we got him in.

Davis: Terry Mitchell with OSD Public Affairs, and maybe Helene Stikkel and Bob Ward, they were the photographers for the secretary. Some of the footage on the different TV shows, like CBS or ABC. They wanted to interview me for 60 Minutes, it was a CBS affiliate. They were working down in the Correspondents Corridor. Someone had footage. I had some at home, tapes of us with the gurney. Terry, I think, provided that. Terry, Helene, and Bob Ward keep

data on the secretary all the time. Helene Stikkel took a lot of pictures at the site. Who does the sound all the time?

Oldach: Pat Jett. Now she works for the Army. What was her name then? Terry knows. She worked with Terry.

Putney: Major Stout sent us some photos, but not of the secretary or you out there as I recall.

Davis: I was looking through them the other day. The *Soldier Magazine*, the October 2001 issue, has the Pentagon pictures.

Putney: OK. Thank you.