## Pentagon Attack

## Interview with Charles McCormick October 25, 2001

<u>Putney:</u> This is an oral history interview with Mr. Charles "Charlie" McCormick, taking place on October 25, 2001 in the Pentagon Building Manager's office. The interviewer is Diane T. Putney.

Mr. McCormick, what are some of your key responsibilities?

McCormick: I am repair and alteration building management specialist. I am a supervisor for that program, with a 30-man shop under me. They do anything in the building that needs repair or changes. They do plaster work, asbestos work, steel work, doors, floors, anything to do with building repair, short of, or sometimes including, mechanical work. I have planner estimators and work inspectors working under me that put out contracts for contractors and do larger-scale repairs. I am responsible for the whole building, including the roof.

<u>Putney:</u> Before September 11, was the office, and were you, concerned at all about having to improve the security of the building because of terrorist threats? Were there some things that might have been done to the building that would have involved your office?

McCormick: If they had let me handle it, it would not have been a problem. I have different ideas then they do. I have been here since 1983. From the day I came here I could not see any reason for planes to be flying over this building or near this building or other structures in the D.C. metropolitan area, such as the White House, the Capitol. They fly across here as free as the birds. I always said that one day one would drop in

on us, and one did. But I am not into security; that's not my responsibility. I would have made some changes if I had the say so, but I don't.

Putney: Did you envision an aircraft dropping something, a bomb?

McCormick: No, I envisioned the whole aircraft, since 1983 I have. Those idiots don't care about life. If they can destroy one of us, they will take out twenty of them.

<u>Putney:</u> I used to be on the fifth floor, and I could hear the planes. They fly low sometimes, right overhead.

McCormick: You know what I am talking about, then. They fly right over the center court, dead center. This should be restricted airspace, but it never has been. I don't know what, if any, restrictions they are able to order, but certainly not enough.

<u>Putney:</u> Does your office get involved with any crisis action plans that get developed for different kinds of contingencies?

McCormick: I run the Hazmat operation here, also. Myself and three others were specifically trained in fire fighting--there are three of us here at the Pentagon and one at the heating plant. We took the regular firefighter 01 course with Arlington County for this specific type of incident. We have our gear, our SCBA, that we can throw on, react, and help out. The main function we were prepared for was to lead the fire department to the facilities to turn off the gas and water, those kinds of things. Not too many people were expecting something of that magnitude. I feel personally that it is far from over and that this is not as large as it will get. That's my personal feeling.

<u>Putney:</u> On September 11th, where were you and how did you hear about the crash?

<u>McCormick:</u> I was in and out of this office, as usual. I came through, and they had a TV turned on and were watching the World Trade Center. There had been one plane, and

suddenly it showed the second plane. At the time, it was just repeating, because everyone was confused. I asked them what made them think we wouldn't also be hit? I went downstairs to smoke a cigarette and walked out to the guard booth to ask if they had upped the threat on the building. The guard said he hadn't heard anything but was waiting to hear something because he had friends up at the Trade Center. He couldn't contact them, and he was very concerned. I told him to throw his cell phone in the trash and get on the regular phone and call his supervisor to keep an eye on this place, because I figured something was going to happen here. I was parked out front, and I walked out to get some cigarettes.

Putney: Where is this?

McCormick: Right here at A&E drive guard booth, on Rotary Road and A&E Drive, the entrance to corridor 2. I wasn't six feet away from the guard, when I caught a glimpse of the back end of the plane coming in. There was an explosion, smoke and fire, and instantly everyone was on the radio yelling that we'd been bombed and to evacuate the building out of corridor 2. I started running across the lot to the heliport side, and it got chaotic quickly. Everyone was trying to empty out of the building and the parking lot, screaming, and as I ran down through the building, I heard a second plane coming in right over top of the lot. I was hollering to people not to come out of corridor 2, there was another incoming aircraft. To this day no one has explained to me to my satisfaction what that was. Someone said it was a jump jet to ward off the plane, but the only thing that could do that would be an F-16. That second plane turned, laid over, and came through between 2 and 3, right up through the smoke where the other one had crashed into the building. It went through the smoke and out of here to who-knows-

where. I made my way around to the heliport side. The heat was intense, even in the parking lot. The men working at the heating plant felt it way over there, and that's quite far away. By the time I got to the heliport side, Arlington County, responding to another call, had seen the plane hit the building and came over very quickly. I talked with them. It was such a massive fireball they had trouble getting close enough to it, but they finally got some ladders up, two hoses, and pumped heavy water on it. But that wasn't doing a lot. About maybe 20 minutes after the crash, units were on the scene. It was quick, but the FBI made everyone pull off, even the firemen, because of the threat of another aircraft. At this time I had no gear, because it was stored at the heating plant. I had to go around and get that later on. The Army and everyone else were applying themselves as much as they could. There were 500 stretchers coming across the lot, but I couldn't see any use for them. It was a furnace, and there was no one to put on a stretcher in that impact area. Outside of that, there was a lot of activity going on, and a lot of fire coming out, so I don't know. The FBI had pulled out for an incoming aircraft and made the firemen and everyone get out of there and go across the street. They were counting down the minutes, 20 minutes out, 15 minutes, and next thing I knew a man said it was no longer a problem. Whether it was the plane that went down in Pa., I don't know. Then they resumed their activities, but the building had burned freely for quite a while.

Putney: About 20 minutes?

McCormick: I guess so, but it seemed like hours to me. When we got back in there some people got pulled from that side. They pulled a woman out, but I don't think she ended up making it later on. I was helping any way I could. The fire department was

trying to get hold of the incident commander, who ended up getting set up in the center court. They had a lot of command posts there, which was confusing. It was pretty chaotic. But I don't see that there was anything more they could have done to save anyone. That jet fuel, when it blew, went down the hallways and lit things up.

We had a group of people here from the Pentagon that I feel should be recognized for their activities, including the women in the office who stayed and maintained the phones. Steve Carter and Kathy Greenwell maintained the BOCC as long as they could. They didn't have power, they were using the microphones to try to coordinate activities about shutting things down, which went out to all the shops. A number of people had left the building but others stayed here to take care of those problems. Myself, Tim Breeden, and Dennis Smith were already here, so we got geared up and continued the rescue through the rest of the week with the fire department. We went into the big telephone closets and got lists of names to give to the fire department of who was supposed to be in those offices. The firefighters did not find whole bodies, they found parts. They did DNA testing to identify the 90 or so identifiable pieces. There were very few full bodies.

Putney: Phone records, then, helped to know who had been in those offices.

McCormick: Yes, who was supposed to be there. I didn't get a final report back from them on how much it helped, but they were looking for numbers. I went to as many phone closets as I could get to.

<u>Putney:</u> What is your equipment that you got from the plant?

McCormick: We have standard firefighting equipment, the same as Arlington County wears, Scott tanks, and the regular fire fighter getup.

<u>Putney:</u> Is part of your responsibility here firefighting?

McCormick: No, to assist the firemen. We are not supposed to actually fight fires, although it is not against our principles. Our job is to assist in any way we can, but sometimes we have to go in with them to show them something inside.

Putney: When you have this equipment, how do you assist them?

McCormick: In any way they need. They dropped a saw off the roof when they were cutting through. I sent it back to the shop to get repaired and sent it back to them. Things like that, and the telephone thing. People weren't allowed in that area for a week, and it still smells of jet fuel and smoke, and it is unoccupiable. They needed information while there was still a chance to do something. The fire smoldered for several days and the roof kept re-igniting. It was a bad scene. There was a terrible, terrible amount of roof damage because of that and the water damage.

I was geared up, just like they were. I broke windows and put temporary generators in and installed them to keep the National Military Command Center up and running. It was a mess. On the first floor there was water eight inches deep. Down in the tunnels it was 18 to 20 inches at the low part. We were walking in water up to our chests in some areas.

<u>Putney:</u> How long were you there that first day?

McCormick: We didn't leave. We stayed.

Putney: The fire raged all night, too, didn't it?

McCormick: It wasn't raging as much as it was originally, they had gotten it tapered down some, but the smoke was still billowing out the next morning. It is something we will never forget.

Putney: Where did you set up that generator, where did you break out the windows?

McCormick: On the first floor near the area they needed to go to.

<u>Putney:</u> So you have generators in storage?

McCormick: No, they have emergency generators here that were also taken out. As a matter of fact, they hit one right there on the heliport pad.

<u>Putney:</u> So you definitely turned it on, as part of your plan?

McCormick: It became part of the plan, it was not an original plan. If they need power somewhere, we will get generators in and get them powered up. But the men couldn't go back in there. I had to clear a way for them, break holes through offices, make them a route to run temporary cables, and things like that. Mr. Smith was also tied up with that. To him it may not have seemed important, but it was as important as the rescue. That had to be done and done quickly.

<u>Putney:</u> What was it like the next day, with the water, smoke, charred wood, and rescue efforts still underway?

McCormick: Dennis and I were working one area with a generator and walked past one man many times and never saw him, because of the angle, poor lighting. We didn't see him until the following afternoon. The firemen had not even finished their door-to-door searches of all the areas. There was nothing they could do. A thousand more could not have done more, because it was unclear how far they could go. The floors on the second and third were buckled and caved in and columns were buckled and twisted and gone. We finally saw the guy sitting up there on the third floor.

Putney: Did you see the building collapse? What was it like?

McCormick: It would have gone even without the water, because even before that weight was applied it was ready to go, but as soon as they started hitting it with water it collapsed. That didn't amaze me as much as the actual inferno, because it didn't matter; in the part that collapsed, there was no life. Those people didn't have a chance.

Putney: It was too close to the impact site.

McCormick: I hope they capture that guy, bring him over here, and drop him from 1,500 feet right in the middle of the Pentagon and let him splatter and hit every wall. Him and all his merry men.

Putney: Were there any others in your group, besides Tim and Dennis?

McCormick: There was McGuire, over at the heating plant. He geared up and came over with us. I lost track of him that day. He's a hell of a guy. He went through the full firefighting course with the youngsters. I am not a spring chicken to be going through with that. That was two years ago.

<u>Putney:</u> You have to carry heavy loads.

McCormick: We did everything those kids did and put a few of them to shame.

Putney: Were you in on the urban search and rescue too?

McCormick: Smith was in on the search and rescue, and I was with him. We had had a fire several weeks before that and didn't have our gear with us. It's underneath my desk, now. It isn't any good if it isn't nearby. I can't do anything without it.

<u>Putney:</u> So it's a hat, respirator, jacket, suit, etc.

McCormick: It's the full firefighter outfit.

<u>Putney:</u> You have such intimate knowledge of the building, I would imagine that people needed your navigation skills.

McCormick: That's why we took the firefighter 01 course. We are also going to take the Hazmat course shortly. It's been in the making for a long time, but they never got around to giving it to us.

<u>Putney:</u> Do you remember with which search and rescue units you had contact, which jurisdictions they came from?

McCormick: They were from all over. I grabbed a PG County police car and went around to get a fuel truck here, the equipment got stuck on the heliport. I wondered why PG County was here, but there were people from all over to help. I told him to turn his lights on, and we went down the highway the wrong way to get a vehicle to get the other vehicle out. Arlington was here instantly; Fairfax, Montgomery, the District, they were all here. I dealt with them all. They set up a command post in the center court here, and I stayed with them the whole time.

Putney: Who was the incident commander? Was that the fire chief?

McCormick: I can't remember all their names. There are many chiefs. Ralph Darn is the battalion chief; he was here the other day. He's doing the investigation on the whole thing. I have lost the other guys' cards. They worked shifts, and we stayed with whoever was in charge at the time.

<u>Putney:</u> The FBI arrived very fast, and they took it over as a crime scene, then, didn't they?

McCormick: They called the shots as to who did what activity in the area. They called it a crime scene. Plane parts were scattered all the way down the road past the fifth corridor side. Something hit a woman and child down on the main highway. The back of the heliport and tower were all fragged up, and plane parts were all the way over by

I told the police to stop them because the FBI was sweeping the area for clues. There were windows, parts of the wing, but mostly unidentifiable pieces.

It came in on an angle, and the wing is not as solid as the fuselage. The wings sheared off, and it looked like it slid down the side of the building, causing a lot of damage and left all the shrapnel and parts. There are still some down there, by the 12-foot tower. I can imagine that the people were terrified, if they saw it coming. The ones who didn't see it coming didn't know a thing. The people where it stopped are still suffering--burned, maimed, hurt. They were rescuing them from the inside, mostly, very few from the outside because from the outside the heat was so intense that nobody was getting near the actual site--there was nothing left anyway. You can imagine the heat off of it. Do you know where the RDF is?

Putney: Yes, I have been in it.

McCormick: Do you know where the Samroc [?] buildings are? On this map, the plane came in here and went through that point. I had men working over here, who felt the heat and the percussion. It just rocked. For a plane that size, filled with that much fuel, and a building of this nature, it held up real well. You can imagine the blast that it had.

<u>Putney:</u> It hit both the newly renovated portion and the one next to it. Did you see that the renovated portion held up better than the rest of wedge 2?

McCormick: The windows in the renovated portion are explosion-proof to a degree. They will not hold up against a plane, but when it got to its extreme points those windows are tough. I had to break one to run a generator cable through, and I had to use a halogen bar and a sledge hammer. After fifteen swings I got a hole through the

double pane that I could get a cable through. I can wield a sledgehammer, but that's how strong they are. I could stand in front of one and let someone shoot a "30 ought 6" at me and fear not. That's how I feel about them. I don't know all the details on them, other than they are tough.

Putney: I understand there was also reinforced steel and Kevlar.

McCormick: That goes back into the walls.

Putney: Could you see that it helped contain the blast?

McCormick: I don't think any of that helped at all, in this instance, other than some of the far-out areas. The far-out areas this way, toward the fifth corridor, had not been done yet. Back towards the fourth corridor it was not completely occupied. It doesn't matter, the next time they will not hit the same area. You can just turn it around and hit anywhere in one corridor or another, and they would kill 4,000 plus people. But this one side had been evacuated for remodeling, and the other side was not fully occupied yet.

<u>Putney:</u> And there was some reinforcement there, with windows and the steel.

McCormick: But some of those fools tighten up their turbans and get it together the next time. It's sad to think of, but if you saw what I saw that day, it would make you think that way and be real leery of people.

<u>Putney:</u> Yes. The roof kept on burning longer than other sections because of old wood?

McCormick: Yes, there is a wood base to it up there, and it just kept rekindling because there were no firestops. They didn't design the roof with fire stops. I am involved in the new part that is going back, and they are placing fire stops in there so that when this happens again it won't keep on rekindling.

<u>Putney:</u> So without fire stops it is all open space down the lenght of the building?

<u>McCormick:</u> It's not open, but when they are tearing slate up, putting water in there, and chopping holes, the cinders just keep on rekindling. It was already heated by the blast, and they are not putting the water directly on the roof other than in the immediate area, so every time they got a hot place out, they had another break somewhere else. It kept on rekindling for days. It was still doing it on Thursday, but then they got it completely out.

<u>Putney:</u> To get back to the FBI, they were in charge because it was a crime scene; what was the chain of command?

McCormick: My chain of command is the battalion chief, the incident commander. I listen to what they say. If they tell me to go into the building, or to stay back, I do what they say. If the FBI can convince the battalion chief to pull his troops out, like they did, I will do that. My main line is the incident commander and the building manager.

Putney: Once the fire was out, the FBI came into the building looking for evidence?

McCormick: The FBI was with the recovery team for the bodies and all, because it was a crime scene. Whatever didn't get pulled out in the rescue mission, when it came to the investigative part of it, no one could come back and get possessions. It was shut off and sealed. The FBI went over it with a fine-tooth comb, which was a tough job. They took weeks getting what parts were identifiable. Look at New York. It's no different, other than that was more massive. It's still burning today. Over a month and still burning. If this building wasn't as low and as well built as it is, it might still be burning. In New York it was massive, and they only recovered about 400 out of 4,800-4,900 people. It is an inferno, a furnace, the same as when you get cremated, there's not

even bones left. They are handing people cans of remains. That's the same as we will do here. They say it is a person, when they actually have no idea. They need to put that man and his whole country in a furnace.

Putney: Was the material taken over to North Parking for further sifting?

McCormick: Yes, they set that up to pull out whatever body parts were available, and the morgue was set up at the RDF.

Putney: After that process, people did have personal items to get.

McCormick: Smith and I took some people back into the high security areas, to get their tapes and things that needed to be recovered, in close and outlying areas of the occupied building where people were not allowed back in. We did that for several days. Then they allowed people back in, but not near the crime scene. It was cordoned off. They had to come to that area with escorts. They had to wear masks, and there was a decontamination setup in the center court where they cleaned themselves and their equipment before they hauled it away from here. I have never been a real firm believer in the Red Cross or the Salvation Army, but they were super helpful. They fed the firemen and kept the morale up. They did a great job.

<u>Putney:</u> That was out in tent city, on the outside?

McCormick: It was also in the center court.

<u>Putney:</u> Can you describe what agencies were out in tent city? We might have to recreate it with some kind of graphic. We will have some overhead shots we will have to identify.

McCormick: I wasn't involved out there. It was like a food line for people who wanted breakfast and such, I guess for anyone that wanted it. I was involved when they tore it

down and got their equipment out, to make sure that the parking lot was in good repair to be reused. I know Bell Atlantic or Verizon had free phones set up, the Red Cross had a first aid nurses' station, the Salvation Army had a tent. Richard Marcey can tell you better than I can who was out there. I was in the center court with the incident commander. As things finished up we needed the parking. Now they have taken the parking back about 400 feet because of the threat they are under now. That eliminated all that parking, so we needed to have the fence and the garbage gone.

Putney: You mentioned Steve Carter in the building ops-center, the BOCC?

McCormick: That's the BOCC, the building operations command center. He stayed at his post because he had very little still functional down there. When the plane hit all 300 alarms went off at the same time, because everything was breaking at once--the pipes, the sprinkler systems, the fire alarms, etc. Plus they felt the blast. I don't think there was anyone in this building that didn't feel the blast. Some didn't know what it was. A small percentage saw it, but enough that when they saw the second plane they knew I wasn't crazy. Carter stayed where they have the power mikes where they can get out. This radio will not get out, but I can call over there, and they can relay that message to the main mike. He stayed to have contact with the shops until they were no longer functional, and the area started filling with smoke. Then he became active in the center court.

<u>Putney:</u> How much interaction was there by your staff with the renovation workers? McCormick: As far as emergency stuff?

<u>Putney:</u> Because this seemed to hit right between the unrenovated area and the part that was almost finished.

McCormick: When something like that happens, everyone gets help if they need it. They had trailers out there. Just yesterday I talked to the man who had the AMIC trailer. I thought he was gone, it was a ball of fire. I never had time to get back into it, to see who survived. I saw a girl's picture on the display board they had at the ceremony. She was a very nice person. I used to see her all the time in the hallways. I found out that she had two kids and loved her dad, according to the write-up on the board. Just because of that one person, that guy needs the best I can give him, I just wish they would let me give it to him.

<u>Putney:</u> What is your ongoing support for the demolition, what kinds of things do you and your staff now have to do?

McCormick: We went in originally and identified all the asbestos areas; there are still problem areas as they are tearing everything out. Marcey was involved with that yesterday. I had a meeting on roof replacement with the contractors who will be doing that. AMIC got the contract for all the concrete work on the structural rebuilding. It's our building, so we are tied right in with whatever goes on. We have daily contact with them. We look at all the submittals and the drawings and OK those. It's a major project. The renovation was major enough to these people, without putting a hole right in the middle of it.

Putney: What about lessons learned, things that could be done?

McCormick: We need to set up some missiles on the corner of the building and make it a no-fly zone. Anything that flies, mistake or not, phoom, powder.

<u>Putney:</u> Like the White House; it's a no-fly zone.

McCormick: They will never do it, but it should be done. Whether you know it or not, with these fools we will end up living in a military state. You saw what you have to do to get in here, but you ain't seen nothin' yet. Wait until these fools cut loose with the other garbage. They need to be busted before they do. If it means penning them all up in this country, so be it. Let it roll. If they are illegal, they don't belong here, dump them. They tried to get a Japanese man on the TV last night to talk about his internment in a camp when he was 10 years old. He was a U.S. citizen, born here. It didn't matter at that time; they did what they needed to do to make this country safe. They need to do whatever it takes now to make this country safe, regardless of whose feelings they hurt. It doesn't matter. If they would just get rid of the illegal people here, what a help that would be. But they don't enforce it. Of course, every one of those men was here legally, originally. They had expired passports, student visas that had expired; someone needs to get busy on that, or we won't be here making these tapes.

Putney: Close those holes.

McCormick: They are massive holes. Those people are totally devoted. The only way to stop them is to kill them. For somebody to come here and live for two years, see the freedom that we live under, and maintain the type of hatred that lets you kill yourself and all these other people just to harm America, that's a dedicated fool, there. That's a psychologically trained machine.

<u>Putney:</u> Willing to fly a plane to a certain death. There's some theory that not all the hijackers even knew they were on a suicide mission. They might have thought they would land and make their demands. But some obviously knew exactly what they were doing and intended to kill themselves and everybody else.

McCormick: This plane here was headed for the White House. Did you know that? They had the air traffic controller who made the call. She was counting the seconds until it would hit the White House. The plane turned, and she still had it on radar, but that's where he was headed. They said it couldn't get down because of all the trees and that he couldn't find the White House from where he was. He had to hit something, so he decided to hit here, that's what they are saying.

<u>Putney:</u> You were out there by your car, and you saw the plane. Was it coming in a straight line? Were you aware of it for a few seconds before it hit?

McCormick: No, I didn't see the plane fully, flying in. I heard it more than anything, the engines thrusting up, and when I looked I saw the back end of it coming down. I assume he was coming in at an angle. When I saw the tail end of the plane, immediately I saw the massive explosion. It's just the sound or glimpse that caught my attention and immediately came the explosion.

Putney: Did the FBI talk with you?

McCormick: No, they talked to me because there had also been another plane coming in. I told them I didn't know about the one 20 minutes away, but there was one seconds away from the building. That was my statement, and they never said anything since. I think they all know exactly what that plane was and what happened to it, but they are not going to come and tell me. I know it didn't hit here, so I guess that's a good thing. I can't tell where it went or what it was about, but it was a large aircraft. All I could see was the belly, that's how low it was, coming across South Parking. After I saw one hit, it's wasn't a real good feeling to see another one coming in. I thought, "Man, what's going on?" I asked the FBI, "Where's our Air Force?" I saw one coming in, one hit, and

had threats of one or two more coming in. I asked them if our Air Force was gone, what was the deal here.

<u>Putney:</u> So when you were pulled away, from what they told you there could have been one or two more coming in?

McCormick: Positively. They had that threat several times, and pulled away, and went back. They didn't pull away the next time, because there was a threat. They made everybody get back all the way to Macys. They made me at one time go all the way around by there. There was nothing we could do, the FBI was hand-carrying people to get them to leave, that's how positive they were that another plane was coming. I looked at all the people and thought, boy, if one of those pilots flew over here he would be overjoyed. So I told the cops to tell the people to go anywhere, just get out of here. They did disperse them. There were a lot of them on the rooftops, looking. I'm sure it was something to look at.

<u>Putney:</u> Is there anything else you think should be mentioned for the record?

McCormick: There should be recognition for the people that work in the building. I am going to talk to my higher-ups about that. There is a group of people that needs to be recognized, that stayed with the whole program. They had no concern about their own personal well-being, they just wanted to help others.

Putney: Do you think the evacuation was orderly?

McCormick: Absolutely not, there was total shock. The people in the parking lot first thing got on the cell phones. I told them to get off the phones and move, get out of their cars, and out of the area. You could see then that the road was instantly deadlocked.

The main thing was to get away from the building. There were people crying, dazed, in shock.

Putney: The smoke was so bad.

McCormick: When you insert a plane into a building of this size with this many people, there is nothing orderly that you can arrange. I got some pictures of the Towers in New York, of the people jumping off. Everyone said, "Why are they jumping?" Well, if you are on fire, or melting, you know you have a choice, burn or jump, in your mind you just kiss it goodbye, but there was nothing else to do to escape the heat. Everybody has questions and answers, but everyone's answers aren't be the same, and everybody's advice won't be adhered to.

Putney: The impact in this area, when they were bringing out people who were burned and injured, where are they bringing them out from and where are they putting them?

McCormick: The main rescue of people was done from inside, and they were bringing them to the courtyard and also out here. People were running stretchers from off the roadway down into this area, as close as they could get to the fire, by the heliport. I saw 500-600 stretchers, which I knew they wouldn't need. The plane crossed through the C ring to A&E drive. They were getting people out of the windows. There was nothing there. I was not on the other side, so I don't know about that. Areas that are not open now, were opened then to get people out. The second plane went right over the first one, through the smoke, about 150 feet off the top of the building. There were not a lot to rescue, but there were people pulled from several points. When you are down low and people are working above you with baskets and such, you can't see what all is going on. I was tied up with the firemen and the FBI. They had one command post set

up here, another on the roadway, another on Fern Street, and one at center court, and I was there.

Dennis Smith was on the inside, he can tell you what he saw. He helped pull a couple of people out. I was the only one from the shops out here from the start, so I felt I should stay with this group. I could still catch the others by radio every so often.

Putney: Anything they wanted, you tried to get.

McCormick: Yes, and they were happy we were there, because we knew about the building facilities and things that they needed to know, like the gas lines running right under where they were parked, and other little important items.

Putney: Your guys had to get there and turn them off.

McCormick: That's on the mechanical side. Mike Gargano can give you that information. He's a good man. He was here the whole time. He knows about all the facilities that were shut down, the water, gas, fire alarms, sprinkler systems, all that kind of stuff.

<u>Putney:</u> Thank you very much.