

INTRODUCTION

At 8:46 on the morning of September 11, 2001, a jetliner crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center in New York City. Fire and rescue crews responded immediately to what seemed a horrible accident. At 9:03 a.m. a second jetliner crashed into the south tower of the World Trade Center. Suddenly, the nation realized that this was no accident.

At 9:37 that same morning, a third jetliner, American Airlines Flight 77, slammed into the western face of the Pentagon. The building shuddered as the aircraft sliced into its outer ring, but the newly renovated section of the Pentagon quickly absorbed the force of the impact. In other sections of the building, people thought something heavy had been dropped on the floors above, while others learned from the news that the Pentagon was under attack. Fire and smoke spread from the crash site. As the evacuation alarms sounded and people fled the blaze, those in the undamaged sections of the building poured out of their offices. Several of them, along with others outside, rushed to the scene to try and help the injured.

Medically-trained personnel served in a variety of offices within the Pentagon. Many of them would help throughout the day, assisting coworkers during the evacuation or offering their skills at the aid stations established outside. However, the bulk of medical personnel worked in the DiLorenzo TRICARE Health Clinic, located roughly opposite where the plane hit.

The DiLorenzo staff assisted in evacuation and set up aid stations in the courtyard, North Parking, and South Parking of the Pentagon. As news of the attack spread, personnel from other area Army installations responded. Some came running on foot from the Fort Myer Rader Clinic, about a mile away. Ambulance teams from Walter Reed Army Medical Center, on the northern side of the District of Columbia, and DeWitt Army Community Hospital, about 15 miles south at Fort Belvoir, also headed to the Pentagon.

Unfortunately, many of the people at the crash site died immediately. Multiple heroic rescue efforts were made, but brought out successively fewer survivors. Medical personnel aided in the treatment of those who were injured, with the majority of the injuries being burns and smoke inhalation.

With warnings of another inbound aircraft, the aid stations situated were evacuated several times during the day. Equipment and supplies were moved away from the intended target and then moved back again when the threat passed. Frustrations were high at the shortage of news available and the lack of coordination between the multiple groups of responders, including organizations from the Pentagon, and many local fire departments and ambulance crews. Medical personnel treated the firemen for minor injuries and provided rest areas with shade and water.

Mental health personnel were on site to help people cope with what they had just witnessed and experienced. Their efforts would continue in the months to follow. Mental

health teams would also counsel the soldiers of the 3d Infantry Regiment, “The Old Guard” who were assigned the grisly task of recovering the bodies from the crash site.

Because material from the airplane and building had vaporized and toxic particles were floating in the air or settling on the walls and floors, environmental health response began immediately. In order to provide a safe and clean atmosphere for Pentagon staff and visitors, as well as for the work of recovery and rebuilding, environmental health teams continued to sample the quality of the air and walls for weeks after the event.

A health assessment survey was organized for those in the vicinity of the crash site to report any health concerns and/or conditions. This would help form a long-term baseline to determine if any future health problems were actually the result of being exposed to the events of September 11th.

In the Pentagon, 125 people died that day and 59 more died on Flight 77.

In the weeks and months that followed, interviewers from the Office of Medical History conducted interviews with the people who played various roles in the medical response to the tragedy. Major Debora Cox and Major Robert Glisson conducted these interviews and Dr. Barry Fowle oversaw the transcription. This work tells their stories, in and through their own words.

This book is dedicated to the memories of those who died in the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, and in honor of those brave men and women who responded.

PENTAGON

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Max Beilke
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Carrie Blagburn
COL Canfield D. Boone
Donna Bowen
Allen Boyle
ET3 Christopher Lee Burford
ET3 Daniel Martin Caballero
SFC Jose Orlando Calderon-Olmedo
Angelene C. Carter
Sharon Carver
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Rosa Maria Chapa
Julian Cooper
Lcdr. Eric Allen Cranford
Ada M. Davis
CAPT Gerald Francis Deonto, USN
LTC Jerry Don Dickerson
IT1 Johnnie Doctor
CAPT Robert Edward Dolan, USN
CDR William H. Donovan, Jr., USN
CDR Patrick S. Dunn, USN
Edward Thomas Earhart
LCDR Robert Randolph Elseth, USN
SK3 Jamie Lynn Fallon
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Sandra N. Foster
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MAJ Wallace C. Hogan, Jr.
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Angela Houtz
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SGM Lacey B. Ivory
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Judith Jones
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Terence M. Lynch
OS2 Nehamon Lyons IV
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Teresa Martin
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Khang Ngoc Nguyen
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MAJ Clifford L. Patterson, Jr.
LT Darin Howard Pontell, USN
Scott Powell
Jack Punches
AW1 Joseph John Pycior, Jr.
Deborah Ramsaur
Rhonda Rasmussen
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Martha Reszke
Cecelia E. Richard
Edward V. Rowenhors
Judy Rowlett
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CW4 William R. Ruth

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Marjorie C. Salamone
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ITC Gregg Harold Smallwood
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LCDR David Lucian Williams, USN
MAJ Dwayne Williams
Marvin R. Woods
IT2 Kevin Wayne Yokum
Donald McArthur Young
Lisa L. Young
Edmond Young, Jr.

FLIGHT 77 CREW

Charles Burlingame
David M. Charlebois
Michele Heidenberger
Jennifer Lewis
Kenneth Lewis
Renee A. May

PASSENGERS

Paul Ambrose
Yeneneh Betru
Mary Jane Booth
Bernard Curtis Brown
Suzanne Calley
William Caswell
Sarah Clark
Asia Cottom
James Debeuneure
Rodney Dickens
Eddie Dillard
Charles Droz
Barbara G. Edwards
Charles S. Falkenberg
Zoe Falkenberg
Dana Falkenberg
James Joe Ferguson
Wilson Flagg
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Richard Gabriel
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Steven D. Jacoby
Ann Judge
Chandler Keller
Yvonne Kennedy
Norma Khan
Karen A. Kincaid
Dong Lee
Dora Menchaca
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Barbara Olson
Ruben Ornedo
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Shuyin Yang
Yuguag Zheng