



1
00:00:01,976 --> 00:00:07,366
No I I remember the events
from 9/11 in sequence

2
00:00:07,366 --> 00:00:08,746
as as sort of they happened.

3
00:00:11,046 --> 00:00:13,126
It was a day that started
like any other day and I came

4
00:00:13,186 --> 00:00:17,796
to work, dropped my son off
at the Lewis Little Folks

5
00:00:17,846 --> 00:00:22,076
which is the lab daycare
center here at NASA and it was

6
00:00:22,136 --> 00:00:23,596
about 8:45 at that time.

7
00:00:24,616 --> 00:00:28,256
And we, so we had our
exchange, I stayed with him

8
00:00:28,336 --> 00:00:30,916
for a few minutes and then
I actually had a flight

9
00:00:30,916 --> 00:00:33,766
out that morning to
travel to NASA Langley.

10
00:00:34,526 --> 00:00:39,796
So I went from the daycare
at 8:45 to the travel office.

11
00:00:39,996 --> 00:00:41,986

And at the time we had to
pick up our travel orders,

12

00:00:41,986 --> 00:00:46,616

you know sign for tickets to
to the aircraft for our flight.

13

00:00:47,236 --> 00:00:50,786

And so when I was in the travel
office, someone walked in

14

00:00:50,786 --> 00:00:54,576

and turned on the news and they
were showing the first airplane

15

00:00:54,706 --> 00:00:59,036

crash into the first
tower, and it was horrific.

16

00:00:59,396 --> 00:01:03,276

You know the the accident itself
was horrific, and for for folks

17

00:01:03,276 --> 00:01:06,616

that work NASA Aeronautics
and the FAA this is,

18

00:01:06,806 --> 00:01:08,226

the odds of this
are astronomical

19

00:01:08,486 --> 00:01:10,396

so this is just something
that doesn't happen.

20

00:01:12,196 --> 00:01:14,776

So again we began to
speculate at that time,

21

00:01:14,776 --> 00:01:16,606

well what was the cause,
how can we prevent this

22

00:01:17,166 --> 00:01:18,316
and all the tragedy of it?

23

00:01:19,066 --> 00:01:20,816
And this was a few
minutes before nine,

24

00:01:20,816 --> 00:01:24,196
and so then I left the
travel office with my tickets

25

00:01:24,196 --> 00:01:26,616
and went back to the office, and
went to the office for the day

26

00:01:26,616 --> 00:01:28,536
to pick up my traveling
companion

27

00:01:29,486 --> 00:01:31,106
and some things from the office.

28

00:01:31,346 --> 00:01:33,156
And I walked in and
everyone was sitting

29

00:01:33,156 --> 00:01:36,296
in the conference room watching
a little TV screen silently

30

00:01:36,296 --> 00:01:40,476
and I stuck my head and
just asked 'em did you hear

31

00:01:42,176 --> 00:01:44,316
about the plane crash?

32

00:01:44,316 --> 00:01:50,216

And it was then that they told
me a second plane had crashed

33

00:01:50,546 --> 00:01:52,026

into the second tower

34

00:01:52,366 --> 00:01:56,196

and I remember my my blood just
ran cold because there was,

35

00:01:56,226 --> 00:01:57,126

there was no question
at that point

36

00:01:57,156 --> 00:01:57,906

that it had to be deliberate.

37

00:01:57,936 --> 00:01:59,136

I mean the odds of one
crash were astronomical,

38

00:01:59,166 --> 00:01:59,976

the odds of this
were unthinkable.

39

00:02:01,336 --> 00:02:04,396

So then I walked into the
conference room, sat down and,

40

00:02:05,066 --> 00:02:08,676

with everyone else silently
watched as trickles of news came

41

00:02:08,676 --> 00:02:12,516

in over the next
20 minutes or so.

42

00:02:13,146 --> 00:02:16,176

Then I left to, went back
to my office to call Langley

43

00:02:16,176 --> 00:02:17,926
to let 'em know obviously
we weren't coming,

44

00:02:17,926 --> 00:02:19,266
made a couple calls.

45

00:02:19,886 --> 00:02:21,756
No one picked up on that
end because they were all

46

00:02:21,756 --> 00:02:24,286
in their conference
rooms watching the news.

47

00:02:25,916 --> 00:02:29,316
Called home, let my wife
know that I wasn't gonna be

48

00:02:29,316 --> 00:02:32,106
on a plane that morning,
told her to turn on the news

49

00:02:32,106 --> 00:02:35,036
and watch the events
and then went back to,

50

00:02:35,036 --> 00:02:36,836
to my own conference
room and watched

51

00:02:36,836 --> 00:02:39,676
as as the Pentagon
was destroyed,

52

00:02:40,706 --> 00:02:44,286
and more news trickled in.

53

00:02:44,286 --> 00:02:47,866

And as we watched the news
came in of a, of an aircraft

54

00:02:47,866 --> 00:02:50,726

that made an unscheduled
turn over Cleveland

55

00:02:51,716 --> 00:02:54,036

and then news came in
of an aircraft parked

56

00:02:54,236 --> 00:02:59,846

on the tarmac here at Hopkins
by the NASA fence you know due

57

00:02:59,846 --> 00:03:00,976

to suspicious activity.

58

00:03:01,046 --> 00:03:04,426

And all this news was trickling
in and we were all speculating

59

00:03:04,586 --> 00:03:07,426

as to why-- we knew, we
knew what was happening

60

00:03:08,026 --> 00:03:09,546

but we couldn't understand
why or who.

61

00:03:09,686 --> 00:03:14,876

And then people began to
ask me, what should we do?

62

00:03:16,036 --> 00:03:17,066

So we started to make calls

63

00:03:17,196 --> 00:03:18,766
to the ad building
what should we do?

64
00:03:18,766 --> 00:03:22,346
And at the time there were no
thoughts of evacuation plans.

65
00:03:22,416 --> 00:03:25,346
I mean all this was unthinkable
what was unfolding in front

66
00:03:25,346 --> 00:03:29,976
of us, so at at some
point during the course

67
00:03:29,976 --> 00:03:30,626
of the morning, maybe

68
00:03:30,626 --> 00:03:33,786
around 11:00 I said all right
I'll take responsibility

69
00:03:33,786 --> 00:03:37,116
and dismissed our staff and
said if, if you need to go home,

70
00:03:37,646 --> 00:03:41,796
if you feel you need to leave
then, then go ahead and leave.

71
00:03:41,796 --> 00:03:45,226
And then at that point the lab
was beginning its evacuation.

72
00:03:45,476 --> 00:03:47,236
People were leaving and
there was a long line

73
00:03:47,236 --> 00:03:48,256

of traffic to get out.

74

00:03:49,366 --> 00:03:51,006

And my first thought
was h- how do I get

75

00:03:51,006 --> 00:03:53,366

to my son at that point?

76

00:03:53,486 --> 00:03:58,586

So I I joined the
evacuation stuck in traffic

77

00:03:58,586 --> 00:04:01,986

and finally pulled off onto
the grass and walked the mile

78

00:04:02,056 --> 00:04:03,786

to the Lewis Little
Folks daycare center

79

00:04:04,596 --> 00:04:05,716

to pick up my son.

80

00:04:06,386 --> 00:04:08,896

And frantic parents
were there and,

81

00:04:08,896 --> 00:04:10,466

and I s- I asked
my son last night,

82

00:04:10,466 --> 00:04:11,896

do you remember any of this?

83

00:04:12,046 --> 00:04:14,146

And he said I remember,
I remember riding

84

00:04:14,146 --> 00:04:17,446

on your shoulders and
walking for a long time.

85

00:04:18,286 --> 00:04:19,116

And and we did.

86

00:04:19,116 --> 00:04:22,866

It was about a, it was a
mile back and and someone,

87

00:04:23,306 --> 00:04:26,056

some parent in kindness, they
picked us up on the way and

88

00:04:26,056 --> 00:04:27,866

and gave us a ride back
to the, to our car.

89

00:04:29,516 --> 00:04:32,496

And the whole event, while it
was surreal as it was happening,

90

00:04:34,336 --> 00:04:37,996

there was sort of a a bonding
even at that time and much more

91

00:04:37,996 --> 00:04:41,596

since I think, that that sort

92

00:04:41,596 --> 00:04:44,276

of galvanized the
resolve of Americans.

93

00:04:44,396 --> 00:04:47,936

I I certainly felt that
all that was fought for

94

00:04:48,346 --> 00:04:49,936

and hard-earned freedoms,

95

00:04:50,256 --> 00:04:52,376

that this is not something
we can take for granted.

96

00:04:53,596 --> 00:04:55,846

And on a daily basis
I'm I'm reminded of that

97

00:04:55,966 --> 00:04:57,886

but particularly when I walk

98

00:04:57,936 --> 00:05:01,126

through the events
of the, of that day.

99

00:05:04,246 --> 00:05:06,146

Where were, you said
you were a mile away.

100

00:05:06,146 --> 00:05:07,276

Where were you parked?

101

00:05:07,276 --> 00:05:09,786

I mean you, i- on the other
side of the center from here?

102

00:05:10,046 --> 00:05:12,466

Yeah the Lewis Little Folks was
the old building at the time.

103

00:05:12,646 --> 00:05:15,376

Oh that's right, yeah 'cause
I'm, I'm a newbie, so.

104

00:05:15,446 --> 00:05:15,886

That's right.

105

00:05:15,956 --> 00:05:16,716

Where where was it .

106

00:05:16,716 --> 00:05:18,786

. . It it's about the
location of where it is now.

107

00:05:18,786 --> 00:05:20,416

Um hum. There at the there
at the very back gate.

108

00:05:20,416 --> 00:05:21,386

So it was in the back gate.

109

00:05:21,436 --> 00:05:22,756

And I worked here
at the main lab.

110

00:05:22,756 --> 00:05:23,246

. . Um hum.

111

00:05:23,456 --> 00:05:24,506

-- over in building 60.

112

00:05:25,146 --> 00:05:26,036

In 60, okay.

113

00:05:26,526 --> 00:05:29,676

So, yeah. So you had to walk,
you couldn't drive over here

114

00:05:29,716 --> 00:05:30,916

because of the traffic?

115

00:05:30,986 --> 00:05:31,426

The traffic.

116

00:05:31,426 --> 00:05:32,586

-- of people leaving.

117

00:05:32,586 --> 00:05:35,136

All exits were just a, a big long line of cars evacuating.

118

00:05:35,466 --> 00:05:38,516

I think at some point there was an official closure

119

00:05:38,786 --> 00:05:40,226

of the center.

120

00:05:40,486 --> 00:05:43,796

Um hum. And they they told everyone to to evacuate.

121

00:05:44,076 --> 00:05:47,866

Yeah. Everyone leaving at the same time creates a huge.

122

00:05:47,866 --> 00:05:48,056

..

123

00:05:48,056 --> 00:05:51,096

Don Campbell was the center director back then wasn't he?

124

00:05:51,096 --> 00:05:52,056

He was. Yeah it was Don.

125

00:05:52,226 --> 00:05:53,986

Yeah because I mean he was appointed

126

00:05:53,986 --> 00:05:55,206

by Goldin and you know, wow.

127

00:05:56,006 --> 00:05:57,656

Well there was no precedent for this either.

128

00:05:57,726 --> 00:06:00,576

The federal building
downtown, there's act-

129

00:06:00,716 --> 00:06:02,726

. . -- what it meant to you.

130

00:06:03,526 --> 00:06:07,066

So on September 11th,
I was actually sitting

131

00:06:07,646 --> 00:06:10,846

in my high school
chemistry class.

132

00:06:11,036 --> 00:06:15,676

The administration comes
on the PA system telling us

133

00:06:15,676 --> 00:06:18,636

that planes have attacked
the World Trade Center,

134

00:06:19,156 --> 00:06:22,106

and school essentially pretty
much stopped at that point

135

00:06:22,206 --> 00:06:25,876

and a lot of us were kind of
questioning what's going on,

136

00:06:26,026 --> 00:06:28,656

you know, how come
school's stopping.

137

00:06:28,656 --> 00:06:30,116

We didn't understand
what was going on.

138

00:06:31,116 --> 00:06:33,776

And then once more information
started coming in that

139

00:06:33,946 --> 00:06:36,596

that plane hit the
Pentagon, then we knew

140

00:06:36,596 --> 00:06:39,056

that there's something
very serious.

141

00:06:39,056 --> 00:06:41,166

And it was a big lesson
throughout the day trying,

142

00:06:41,646 --> 00:06:44,026

learning you know
what this meant to us,

143

00:06:44,236 --> 00:06:45,856

what this meant to the country.

144

00:06:45,856 --> 00:06:49,066

And I knew that our country
would never be the same again

145

00:06:49,306 --> 00:06:53,176

and it caused a lot of
uncertainty and curiosity.

146

00:06:53,666 --> 00:06:54,646

Throughout the rest

147

00:06:54,776 --> 00:06:59,506

of the school day we pretty
much every TV had CNN on

148

00:07:00,296 --> 00:07:03,506

and everybody was glued
to the TV and especially

149

00:07:03,506 --> 00:07:07,716

for us students, we were
learning a lot, never thought

150

00:07:07,716 --> 00:07:11,746

that something could happen
to us on on American soil.

151

00:07:12,046 --> 00:07:15,316

So you know what it meant to me,

152

00:07:15,356 --> 00:07:19,516

it just actually gave me
a greater appreciation

153

00:07:19,656 --> 00:07:24,186

for you know, definitely
you saw what the community

154

00:07:24,186 --> 00:07:27,786

and what the nation can do
together when we're under attack

155

00:07:27,786 --> 00:07:32,046

and gave me a different
perspective for, you know,

156

00:07:32,096 --> 00:07:34,086

being proud of this country

157

00:07:34,086 --> 00:07:37,976

and that's pretty much
all I have to say.

158

00:07:38,126 --> 00:07:38,606

All right.

159
00:07:38,646 --> 00:07:39,826
Cut that pretty short.

160
00:07:39,826 --> 00:07:41,186
No that's great.

161
00:07:41,246 --> 00:07:41,736
I have--

162
00:07:43,566 --> 00:07:46,356
Well, when 9/11 happened
I was stationed

163
00:07:46,356 --> 00:07:47,516
at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

164
00:07:48,226 --> 00:07:50,236
I was actually sitting
in the DFAC,

165
00:07:50,376 --> 00:07:54,036
the dining facility eating
breakfast with my squad,

166
00:07:54,786 --> 00:07:58,386
and we had this big screen TV in
there so we're just eating like,

167
00:07:58,736 --> 00:08:00,256
oh what kind of movie is this?

168
00:08:00,746 --> 00:08:01,846
It was really lighthearted.

169
00:08:02,286 --> 00:08:06,016
And then we realized once
the news broadcaster talked

170

00:08:06,016 --> 00:08:07,736
about it, we were
getting attacked.

171
00:08:07,736 --> 00:08:10,056
Everyone just stopped eating.

172
00:08:10,326 --> 00:08:13,586
We just looked and it
just was unbelievable.

173
00:08:14,146 --> 00:08:16,716
So we're here, I'm
a fresh soldier.

174
00:08:16,716 --> 00:08:17,866
I've only been in for a year.

175
00:08:18,276 --> 00:08:23,106
I was in the Army so I
just knew, we just said,

176
00:08:23,106 --> 00:08:26,166
my my buddy Baker, he
said we're goin' to war.

177
00:08:27,076 --> 00:08:27,726
Nobody said anything.

178
00:08:28,616 --> 00:08:29,986
The dining facility
was just quiet.

179
00:08:30,866 --> 00:08:35,516
We're just watchin', so at
that moment I, you know I felt

180
00:08:35,516 --> 00:08:36,506
that we were goin' to war.

181

00:08:37,136 --> 00:08:41,186

And when I signed up on
the surface level it was

182

00:08:41,246 --> 00:08:45,386

for college money, but
what it meant to be

183

00:08:45,386 --> 00:08:48,506

at that moment it just meant
that the oath that I took,

184

00:08:49,016 --> 00:08:51,906

it was a serious oath and
I had to live up to it.

185

00:08:52,366 --> 00:08:54,326

I had to defend my
country if we had to.

186

00:08:54,916 --> 00:09:00,116

So that whole day we just, we
didn't work, we just listened

187

00:09:00,116 --> 00:09:04,836

to the radio, and come
to find out some troops

188

00:09:04,896 --> 00:09:09,536

and squads did go overseas--
it was Afghanistan at the time.

189

00:09:09,756 --> 00:09:11,516

You know I didn't
go to Afghanistan

190

00:09:11,516 --> 00:09:13,566

but two years later
I was in Iraq

191

00:09:13,566 --> 00:09:17,466

but this all was a
result of the 9/11 attack.

192

00:09:18,146 --> 00:09:19,656

It really changed my life.

193

00:09:19,656 --> 00:09:22,836

I have a better appreciation
for just the simple things

194

00:09:22,976 --> 00:09:26,026

and just being able
to speak today

195

00:09:26,026 --> 00:09:29,996

and you know tell the story of
where I was when it happened.

196

00:09:29,996 --> 00:09:30,986

It was very significant

197

00:09:30,986 --> 00:09:34,386

and unforgettable
and it's really sad.

198

00:09:35,316 --> 00:09:37,466

Do I stop?

199

00:09:38,206 --> 00:09:39,846

Yeah oh any any time you want.

200

00:09:40,166 --> 00:09:42,816

Now what did, what did it
mean to you, the experience?

201

00:09:42,816 --> 00:09:44,316

I mean you sort of
touched on that but.

202

00:09:44,316 --> 00:09:46,086

. . Yeah. -- you know maybe
you can elaborate a l-

203

00:09:46,086 --> 00:09:48,166

well I guess you really
sort of took care of that.

204

00:09:48,816 --> 00:09:50,056

Do you want to hear more?

205

00:09:50,056 --> 00:09:52,906

No no, that's okay, only
if you want to, yeah.

206

00:09:53,776 --> 00:09:58,526

Well, it it just meant
that I really had to step

207

00:09:58,526 --> 00:10:02,586

up in a way differently
than if I was a civilian.

208

00:10:02,876 --> 00:10:06,946

I had to go and really take
everything that I learned

209

00:10:06,946 --> 00:10:10,146

in basic training, everything
that we trained for and,

210

00:10:10,756 --> 00:10:13,506

you know, just really had
to put it into action,

211

00:10:13,506 --> 00:10:15,076

you know, at that point.

212

00:10:15,146 --> 00:10:18,426

So I was livin' up and
just bein' ready to,

213

00:10:18,426 --> 00:10:21,986

when I got the call to just
go and serve my country

214

00:10:22,056 --> 00:10:24,656

and make sure I made
it back home safely

215

00:10:24,706 --> 00:10:27,356

for my, to my family members.

216

00:10:28,156 --> 00:10:32,756

9/11 it just, from that day
on it just led us up to today.

217

00:10:32,756 --> 00:10:33,396

We're still in Iraq.

218

00:10:34,016 --> 00:10:35,016

We're still in Afghanistan.

219

00:10:35,106 --> 00:10:36,506

We're still all over the world.

220

00:10:36,996 --> 00:10:42,546

And we just have a, a
stronger bond military service,

221

00:10:43,396 --> 00:10:47,846

men and women and veterans you
know ve- veterans of past wars.

222

00:10:48,146 --> 00:10:52,216

It's just a stronger,
tighter bond

223

00:10:52,216 --> 00:10:54,366

because if you've
never experienced

224

00:10:54,446 --> 00:10:56,566

that you wouldn't
know what it's like.

225

00:10:57,126 --> 00:11:02,536

So just to be able to be home
and be safe and live in America.

226

00:11:03,226 --> 00:11:06,576

You, when you're exposed
to a different culture

227

00:11:06,986 --> 00:11:12,526

that you know their government
is really just not like,

228

00:11:12,526 --> 00:11:13,686

it's not a democracy.

229

00:11:13,686 --> 00:11:16,146

It's just not, because
of culture and religion

230

00:11:16,536 --> 00:11:23,996

and the disparities between the
U.S. and those other cultures

231

00:11:23,996 --> 00:11:28,906

in the southwest Asia, is it's
you just appreciate it more

232

00:11:29,256 --> 00:11:30,426

when you're exposed to that.

233

00:11:31,046 --> 00:11:36,936

So to me, the effects of 9/11,
I was exposed to that culture,

234

00:11:37,136 --> 00:11:38,156
so I know what it's like.

235

00:11:38,436 --> 00:11:43,306
I've seen it and I appreciate
my country that much more.

236

00:11:43,796 --> 00:11:46,206
And when I went over, I wanted

237

00:11:46,276 --> 00:11:48,756
to protect my country
that much more.

238

00:11:49,376 --> 00:11:54,186
So it it, you know inside it
just changed my outlook on life.

239

00:11:54,186 --> 00:11:57,336
I have a global perspective
of what it's

240

00:11:57,336 --> 00:11:59,656
like to just be exposed
to different cultures

241

00:11:59,956 --> 00:12:01,226
that don't believe
what we believe.

242

00:12:01,726 --> 00:12:06,936
So I guess to me it just
really opened up my mind

243

00:12:07,466 --> 00:12:13,606
to what other cultures see
and do and how they live

244

00:12:13,606 --> 00:12:17,596
and how they function and
what they can and can't do,

245

00:12:17,966 --> 00:12:20,526
and you know some
things they'll die

246

00:12:20,626 --> 00:12:22,366
for that we just take
for granted here.

247

00:12:22,986 --> 00:12:26,796
So I just have a,
an appreciation just

248

00:12:26,796 --> 00:12:30,286
for bein' an American citizen,
you know as a result of 9/11

249

00:12:30,676 --> 00:12:32,956
and my experience
with the military

250

00:12:32,956 --> 00:12:35,896
and you know just
seein' everything

251

00:12:35,896 --> 00:12:40,246
and you know just the exposure
so, I'm not really sure

252

00:12:40,246 --> 00:12:41,616
where to stop George
[inaudible] keep talkin'.

253

00:12:41,796 --> 00:12:45,116
That that-- And away we go.

254

00:12:45,276 --> 00:12:45,666

All right.

255

00:12:46,246 --> 00:12:52,336

All right so on 9/11 I was
out in Seattle for a Society

256

00:12:52,336 --> 00:12:56,736

of Automotive Engineers AC9C
standards committee meeting.

257

00:12:57,186 --> 00:13:00,346

And I found out what
had happened--

258

00:13:00,346 --> 00:13:02,996

at 5:30 in the morning I went
into the gym and saw the,

259

00:13:02,996 --> 00:13:08,076

one of the towers had been down
and then saw the second one.

260

00:13:08,266 --> 00:13:11,456

To this day I'm still
surprised we actually continued

261

00:13:11,456 --> 00:13:14,946

on with the meeting
that day and the next.

262

00:13:14,946 --> 00:13:17,406

At the end I I think though that
was probably a good thing to do

263

00:13:17,456 --> 00:13:21,546

because it gave gave us
some focus, something to do

264

00:13:21,546 --> 00:13:24,256
in the time and we weren't able
to come home for several days.

265
00:13:24,336 --> 00:13:26,936
And I think you know what
it meant to me at the time,

266
00:13:26,936 --> 00:13:29,306
there was a lot of concern
about what had happened

267
00:13:29,306 --> 00:13:34,366
in our country, when we'd get
home, even my oldest daughter

268
00:13:34,366 --> 00:13:36,696
at the time had a lot of
concern about me flying

269
00:13:36,696 --> 00:13:37,916
in an airplane to come home.

270
00:13:38,666 --> 00:13:40,656
And now I look back and I think,

271
00:13:40,996 --> 00:13:43,266
I remember how much it
brought our country together

272
00:13:43,266 --> 00:13:47,946
and that's what I really
remember about 9/11.

273
00:13:51,556 --> 00:13:57,876
Okay. On September 11th, 2001
I was in the military stationed

274
00:13:57,876 --> 00:14:01,256
at Fort Stewart, Georgia

when I heard the news

275

00:14:01,716 --> 00:14:07,146
of two planes crashing
into the Twin Towers.

276

00:14:07,836 --> 00:14:10,526
Actually my first sergeant
was on the phone with someone

277

00:14:10,796 --> 00:14:13,956
in the Pentagon and the
guy hung up on him stating

278

00:14:14,146 --> 00:14:16,976
that a plane flew
into the pel- Pentagon

279

00:14:17,766 --> 00:14:20,886
and of course my first sergeant
thought the guy was just lying

280

00:14:20,886 --> 00:14:22,936
in ways to get off
the phone with him.

281

00:14:23,726 --> 00:14:27,626
With that being said, Fort
Stewart was put on lockdown.

282

00:14:27,716 --> 00:14:31,446
It took about an hour and
a half just to get on post,

283

00:14:31,786 --> 00:14:36,306
so what I was doing, I was at
that time working as a sergeant

284

00:14:36,306 --> 00:14:40,256
in the United States Army

and what did it mean to me?

285

00:14:40,826 --> 00:14:47,216

As a soldier at that time it
meant, it it it put a kind

286

00:14:47,216 --> 00:14:49,736

of a a fierce feeling
into my heart

287

00:14:49,826 --> 00:14:53,996

because with us being soldiers,
we were always on call.

288

00:14:54,126 --> 00:14:59,676

And it was, it was kind of
terrifying considering it was

289

00:14:59,716 --> 00:15:01,896

on our U.S. territory, our soil.

290

00:15:02,386 --> 00:15:04,266

So it was kinda too
close to home,

291

00:15:04,776 --> 00:15:10,516

but being in the armed force
it meant that we had to step

292

00:15:10,516 --> 00:15:12,946

up our game and be
more on duty as far

293

00:15:12,946 --> 00:15:15,076

as protecting the United States.

294

00:15:18,426 --> 00:15:22,546

I was across the street from the
Pentagon when the plane went in.

295

00:15:23,396 --> 00:15:28,826

Jet fuel immediately filled
the meeting room at our hotel.

296

00:15:30,596 --> 00:15:35,486

What what mattered most to me
is that I saw pep- the best

297

00:15:35,616 --> 00:15:38,056

of people in the
face of the tragedy.

298

00:15:38,626 --> 00:15:42,336

The hotel staff actually went
home, baked cookies for all

299

00:15:42,336 --> 00:15:44,016

of us that were stuck
in the hotel.

300

00:15:44,816 --> 00:15:48,366

But for me personally, the
bravest person in my life

301

00:15:48,476 --> 00:15:52,106

through that whole time
was my wife who drove

302

00:15:52,216 --> 00:15:55,626

down from Cleveland to
Baltimore alone to pick me up.

303

00:15:56,026 --> 00:15:58,336

Baltimore was as far
away from Washington

304

00:15:58,336 --> 00:16:00,256

as I could get on
September 11th.

305

00:16:01,006 --> 00:16:05,796

I was on my way to work when
the first tower was hit,

306

00:16:06,366 --> 00:16:07,406

listening to it on the radio.

307

00:16:08,016 --> 00:16:08,526

Came to work.

308

00:16:08,526 --> 00:16:12,326

I was able to sit in Larry
[inaudible] office watching the

309

00:16:12,396 --> 00:16:14,896

second tower get hit and
both towers collapse.

310

00:16:15,626 --> 00:16:19,246

I instantly started praying,
realizing that I had friends

311

00:16:19,246 --> 00:16:22,676

and family that work very close
to that area and some actually

312

00:16:22,676 --> 00:16:25,186

in the World Trade Center
buildings themselves.

313

00:16:25,636 --> 00:16:26,986

I was hoping and praying
that they were fine,

314

00:16:26,986 --> 00:16:29,156

and in fact they were.

315

00:16:29,676 --> 00:16:32,846

And what it meant to me is

the fact that we are no longer

316

00:16:32,846 --> 00:16:34,646

as safe as we once
thought in this country

317

00:16:35,186 --> 00:16:38,846

and that evil can come to
our doorsteps and we have