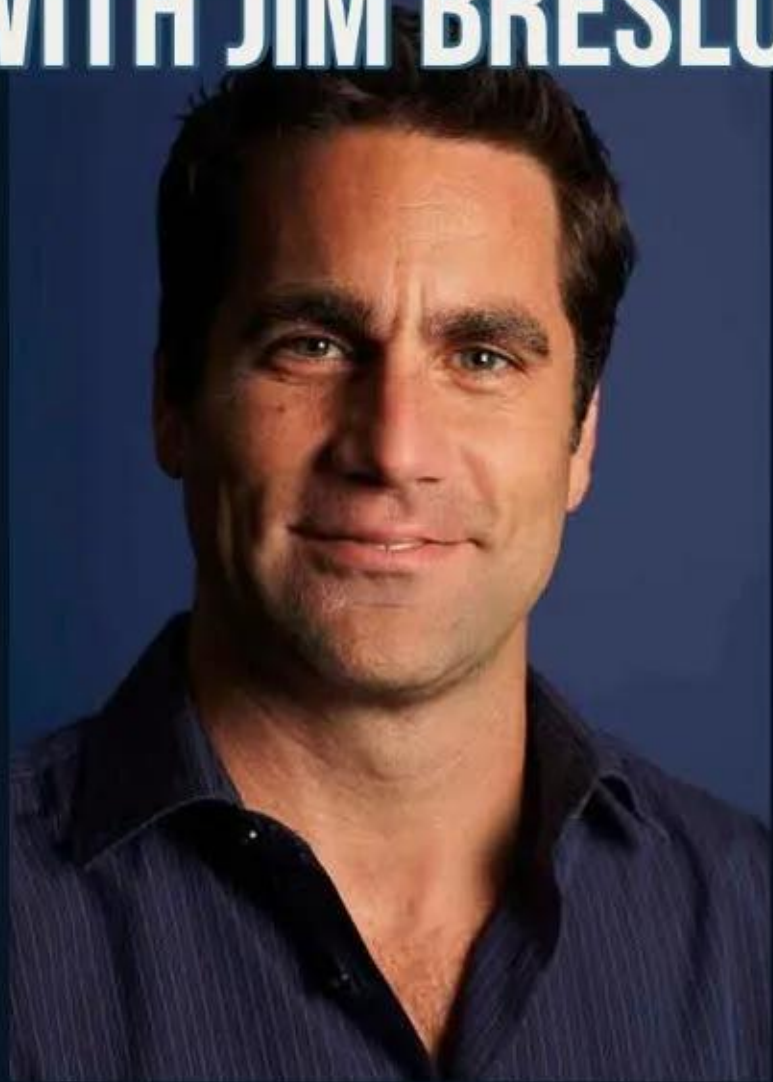


HIDDEN TRUTH SHOW WITH JIM BRESLO



"This is history at its most immediate and moving." —JON MEACHAM

THE ONLY PLANE IN THE SKY

GARRETT M. GRAFF

AN ORAL HISTORY OF 9/11

*New York
Times
Bestseller*

GARRETT M. GRAFF



1
00:00:03,770 --> 00:00:01,699
okay now for our interview with Garrett

2
00:00:05,539 --> 00:00:03,780
Graff I started by asking Graff whether

3
00:00:08,900 --> 00:00:05,549
he thinks people have already forgotten

4
00:00:10,669 --> 00:00:08,910
the lessons of 9/11 well so I think

5
00:00:12,950 --> 00:00:10,679
there are a couple of things that play

6
00:00:14,480 --> 00:00:12,960
there I mean the first is simply you

7
00:00:18,349 --> 00:00:14,490
know a quarter of the US population

8
00:00:20,779 --> 00:00:18,359
today was either born after 9/11 or was

9
00:00:24,679 --> 00:00:20,789
too young to have any memories of that

10
00:00:29,540 --> 00:00:24,689
day and that is you know something that

11
00:00:32,389 --> 00:00:29,550
we are beginning to see in our big way

12
00:00:36,380 --> 00:00:32,399
you know last year was the first year

13
00:00:38,780 --> 00:00:36,390

that you saw servicemen and women being

14

00:00:41,600 --> 00:00:38,790

deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan to

15

00:00:44,119 --> 00:00:41,610

fight in a war that was older than they

16

00:00:47,990 --> 00:00:44,129

are you know last year it was the first

17

00:00:52,130 --> 00:00:48,000

time that new recruits to the New York

18

00:00:54,229 --> 00:00:52,140

Fire Department were enough or young

19

00:00:57,650 --> 00:00:54,239

enough is it the right way to have been

20

00:01:00,139 --> 00:00:57,660

born after 9/11 and you know this fall

21

00:01:02,750 --> 00:01:00,149

you will see a college class entering

22

00:01:05,090 --> 00:01:02,760

across the country that is almost

23

00:01:08,510 --> 00:01:05,100

entirely made up of people or and after

24

00:01:14,120 --> 00:01:08,520

9/11 and so you know I think there is a

25

00:01:16,399 --> 00:01:14,130

very real question of how although the

26

00:01:20,330 --> 00:01:16,409

story of 9/11 and sort of remind people

27

00:01:22,609 --> 00:01:20,340

about what happened that day as we move

28

00:01:25,609 --> 00:01:22,619

to a generation that will live their

29

00:01:28,999 --> 00:01:25,619

entire lives in the world created by

30

00:01:32,090 --> 00:01:29,009

9/11 but will have no actual emotional

31

00:01:34,520 --> 00:01:32,100

connection to the underlying events yeah

32

00:01:38,780 --> 00:01:34,530

there's really a question of what are

33

00:01:42,109 --> 00:01:38,790

the lessons of 9/11 because it certainly

34

00:01:45,770 --> 00:01:42,119

appears that in many ways we overreacted

35

00:01:47,660 --> 00:01:45,780

to 9/11 so on the one hand I just made

36

00:01:50,149 --> 00:01:47,670

the point that we need to never forget

37

00:01:52,760 --> 00:01:50,159

what happened certainly because of the

38

00:01:55,880 --> 00:01:52,770

victims and the first responders and so

39

00:01:59,330 --> 00:01:55,890

on and to be vigilant and recognize that

40

00:02:01,490 --> 00:01:59,340

there is this Muslim extremist terrorism

41

00:02:04,999 --> 00:02:01,500

out there and a terror network to be

42

00:02:07,399 --> 00:02:05,009

concerned about but when you look at how

43

00:02:11,510 --> 00:02:07,409

we responded it appears that in many

44

00:02:13,460 --> 00:02:11,520

ways as far as Wars go and perhaps even

45

00:02:17,090 --> 00:02:13,470

as far as a domestic secure

46

00:02:20,030 --> 00:02:17,100

has gone you know the militarization of

47

00:02:22,220 --> 00:02:20,040

our police etc that we perhaps

48

00:02:26,270 --> 00:02:22,230

overreacted what are your thoughts there

49

00:02:29,090 --> 00:02:26,280

yeah I think when you talk to our

50

00:02:31,520 --> 00:02:29,100

terrorism experts you know what they all

51
00:02:33,640 --> 00:02:31,530
say is you know al Qaeda was more

52
00:02:37,610 --> 00:02:33,650
dangerous than we thought it was on

53
00:02:40,280 --> 00:02:37,620
September 10 and not as dangerous as we

54
00:02:48,400 --> 00:02:40,290
thought it was on September 12th and

55
00:02:51,920 --> 00:02:48,410
that this heel of our response was

56
00:02:53,510 --> 00:02:51,930
probably not necessary but I mean I

57
00:02:56,240 --> 00:02:53,520
think this was sort of an important part

58
00:03:01,550 --> 00:02:56,250
of the work that I wanted to do look and

59
00:03:05,680 --> 00:03:01,560
telling this is when you look at the

60
00:03:09,470 --> 00:03:05,690
facts of 9/11 it makes it very hard to

61
00:03:12,400 --> 00:03:09,480
understand the reaction that we had as a

62
00:03:15,080 --> 00:03:12,410
country as a government as a military

63
00:03:18,440 --> 00:03:15,090

because it just seemed so vastly out of

64

00:03:21,410 --> 00:03:18,450

scale and and so what you have to sort

65

00:03:25,190 --> 00:03:21,420

of recapture of 9/11 of the experience

66

00:03:29,949 --> 00:03:25,200

of 9/11 was the fear of what came next

67

00:03:33,410 --> 00:03:29,959

that it was the fear of what could come

68

00:03:35,540 --> 00:03:33,420

that drove so much of the u.s.

69

00:03:38,540 --> 00:03:35,550

decision-making you know on September

70

00:03:41,600 --> 00:03:38,550

12th through that fall of 2001 through

71

00:03:45,620 --> 00:03:41,610

the invasion of Iraq yeah it really was

72

00:03:49,190 --> 00:03:45,630

a brilliant hate hating to use that word

73

00:03:52,130 --> 00:03:49,200

but a brilliant terrorist attack both in

74

00:03:55,550 --> 00:03:52,140

what they were able to do that day and

75

00:03:57,710 --> 00:03:55,560

the fear that they were able to instill

76
00:04:00,170 --> 00:03:57,720
because at the end of the day when you

77
00:04:01,310 --> 00:04:00,180
look at what happened I believe him

78
00:04:02,750 --> 00:04:01,320
you know we're going with the official

79
00:04:04,280 --> 00:04:02,760
narrative there's conspiracy theories

80
00:04:06,470 --> 00:04:04,290
out there and and we'll touch on a

81
00:04:08,390 --> 00:04:06,480
little bit of that but based on the

82
00:04:10,960 --> 00:04:08,400
official narrative that happened it

83
00:04:14,150 --> 00:04:10,970
really wasn't an extraordinarily

84
00:04:16,490 --> 00:04:14,160
difficult thing to pull off in

85
00:04:18,530 --> 00:04:16,500
retrospect considering the state of our

86
00:04:20,330 --> 00:04:18,540
security and our readiness obviously at

87
00:04:22,339 --> 00:04:20,340
that time you had to get these guys

88
00:04:24,740 --> 00:04:22,349

trained they had to hijack them and then

89

00:04:27,290 --> 00:04:24,750

they had to fly him into these into

90

00:04:34,719 --> 00:04:27,300

these buildings and

91

00:04:39,559 --> 00:04:34,729

that created mass chaos math mass

92

00:04:42,529 --> 00:04:39,569

carnage and mass ultimately fear exactly

93

00:04:47,659 --> 00:04:42,539

what they wanted to achieve yeah and I

94

00:04:51,730 --> 00:04:47,669

think that it was a very specific terror

95

00:04:54,649 --> 00:04:51,740

plot that played on vulnerabilities and

96

00:04:57,680 --> 00:04:54,659

expectations that we as a society and

97

00:05:02,570 --> 00:04:57,690

its government as institutions had up

98

00:05:04,520 --> 00:05:02,580

until that day you know hurt of again

99

00:05:07,040 --> 00:05:04,530

retelling that history of 9/11

100

00:05:11,390 --> 00:05:07,050

remembering what happened that day that

101

00:05:16,399 --> 00:05:11,400

seems so foreign to us is the extent to

102

00:05:17,990 --> 00:05:16,409

which you know things like the hijackers

103

00:05:20,809 --> 00:05:18,000

were allowed to carry knives aboard the

104

00:05:22,670 --> 00:05:20,819

planes that day you know that the

105

00:05:25,129 --> 00:05:22,680

military's first response that air

106

00:05:27,920 --> 00:05:25,139

traffic controls response was not

107

00:05:31,399 --> 00:05:27,930

necessarily to intercept the planes once

108

00:05:33,860 --> 00:05:31,409

they were hijacked but to you know give

109

00:05:36,499 --> 00:05:33,870

the hijackers what they wanted you know

110

00:05:38,420 --> 00:05:36,509

we have a long history of airplane

111

00:05:41,120 --> 00:05:38,430

hijackings in the United States never

112

00:05:41,689 --> 00:05:41,130

had a plane actually been used as a

113

00:05:45,230 --> 00:05:41,699

missile

114

00:05:47,809 --> 00:05:45,240
until that day and so those are

115

00:05:50,930 --> 00:05:47,819
protocols and the response scenarios

116

00:05:53,600 --> 00:05:50,940
that we had in place that day this did

117

00:05:57,170 --> 00:05:53,610
not account for what the terrorists were

118

00:05:59,809 --> 00:05:57,180
going to do and I think you know when I

119

00:06:03,709 --> 00:05:59,819
did the book when I sort of traced that

120

00:06:08,659 --> 00:06:03,719
day as it unfolded I think you see that

121

00:06:10,580 --> 00:06:08,669
innocence of America in those first 17

122

00:06:14,540 --> 00:06:10,590
minutes the time between the first

123

00:06:17,809 --> 00:06:14,550
attack and the second attacked 846 the

124

00:06:21,680 --> 00:06:17,819
first attack - 903 the second attack

125

00:06:25,700 --> 00:06:21,690
into the South Tower and what you see

126
00:06:28,369 --> 00:06:25,710
that day is that during those 17 minutes

127
00:06:32,269 --> 00:06:28,379
sort of America collectively looked at

128
00:06:34,610 --> 00:06:32,279
that first attack in truck and said you

129
00:06:36,499 --> 00:06:34,620
know it's got to be a small plane the

130
00:06:38,540 --> 00:06:36,509
pilot was having a heart attack there

131
00:06:41,530 --> 00:06:38,550
was a mechanical problem air traffic

132
00:06:45,040 --> 00:06:41,540
control is having a really bad day

133
00:06:48,070 --> 00:06:45,050
our minds collectively did not leap to

134
00:06:49,570 --> 00:06:48,080
terrorists and that President Bush got

135
00:06:51,490 --> 00:06:49,580
on the phone with Condi Rice his

136
00:06:53,830 --> 00:06:51,500
national security adviser and sort of

137
00:06:55,930 --> 00:06:53,840
both had a conversation ha

138
00:06:59,020 --> 00:06:55,940

that was weird and then they went on

139

00:07:00,880 --> 00:06:59,030

with their day Brian Gunderson the chief

140

00:07:04,870 --> 00:07:00,890

of staff to the House Majority Leader

141

00:07:08,200 --> 00:07:04,880

talks about walking into his house

142

00:07:11,800 --> 00:07:08,210

office that morning seeing the TV on in

143

00:07:13,630 --> 00:07:11,810

the reception room and he said that he

144

00:07:15,580 --> 00:07:13,640

thought it was going to be like a bad

145

00:07:16,270 --> 00:07:15,590

school shooting sort of the type of

146

00:07:19,420 --> 00:07:16,280

thing

147

00:07:22,480 --> 00:07:19,430

that dominates national news but doesn't

148

00:07:25,450 --> 00:07:22,490

actually affect people are from the

149

00:07:28,270 --> 00:07:25,460

incident itself but then even people in

150

00:07:32,110 --> 00:07:28,280

New York were not they were sort of

151

00:07:34,360 --> 00:07:32,120

puzzled and horrified by the attack but

152

00:07:38,080 --> 00:07:34,370

went on about their day you know one of

153

00:07:40,420 --> 00:07:38,090

the most striking quotes IP in my book

154

00:07:42,160 --> 00:07:40,430

research was the story that Peter

155

00:07:44,800 --> 00:07:42,170

Johansson told he was one of the New

156

00:07:48,160 --> 00:07:44,810

York Waterway ferry captain that morning

157

00:07:52,030 --> 00:07:48,170

of 9/11 and he talks about watching that

158

00:07:54,370 --> 00:07:52,040

first plane hit the North Tower as his

159

00:07:57,130 --> 00:07:54,380

ferry was coming across New York Harbor

160

00:07:58,720 --> 00:07:57,140

and that they pulled into Wall Street

161

00:08:01,200 --> 00:07:58,730

terminal you know just a couple of

162

00:08:04,840 --> 00:08:01,210

blocks from the World Trade Center and

163

00:08:07,180 --> 00:08:04,850

every single commuter on the boat gets

164

00:08:10,120 --> 00:08:07,190

off and walks into lower Manhattan

165

00:08:13,990 --> 00:08:10,130

they literally walk off the boat through

166

00:08:16,420 --> 00:08:14,000

falling paper and debris from that first

167

00:08:19,030 --> 00:08:16,430

hour but that there was no one on the

168

00:08:20,620 --> 00:08:19,040

ferry who said you know this just sort

169

00:08:22,360 --> 00:08:20,630

of seems like it's gonna be a weird day

170

00:08:24,360 --> 00:08:22,370

I think I should go work from home for

171

00:08:28,780 --> 00:08:24,370

the rest of the day you know America

172

00:08:30,940 --> 00:08:28,790

reacted to that first attack thinking it

173

00:08:32,710 --> 00:08:30,950

was just something weird that had

174

00:08:36,159 --> 00:08:32,720

happened and it was not until that

175

00:08:37,680 --> 00:08:36,169

second attack at 9:03 that we began to

176

00:08:41,260 --> 00:08:37,690

realize we were under attack

177

00:08:44,740 --> 00:08:41,270

what was the intelligence prior to 9/11

178

00:08:52,270 --> 00:08:44,750

about the potential of hijackers flying

179

00:08:55,380 --> 00:08:52,280

planes into significant targets because

180

00:08:58,639 --> 00:08:55,390

the idea that such a plot

181

00:09:04,650 --> 00:08:58,649

was possible had certainly been

182

00:09:07,610 --> 00:09:04,660

discussed and and and plotted and there

183

00:09:10,319 --> 00:09:07,620

had actually even bid response scenarios

184

00:09:12,060 --> 00:09:10,329

at places like the Pentagon to what

185

00:09:15,990 --> 00:09:12,070

might happen if a plane was flown in

186

00:09:18,990 --> 00:09:16,000

building you know this was not a totally

187

00:09:21,960 --> 00:09:19,000

out of the idea I mean it had literally

188

00:09:25,860 --> 00:09:21,970

been you know part of the plot of the

189

00:09:30,509 --> 00:09:25,870

Tom Clancy novel before them where a

190

00:09:32,910 --> 00:09:30,519

disgruntled pilot flew a plane into the

191

00:09:35,490 --> 00:09:32,920

US Capitol in the midst of a

192

00:09:39,449 --> 00:09:35,500

presidential State of the Union style

193

00:09:41,370 --> 00:09:39,459

addressed and you know that is out Jack

194

00:09:43,069 --> 00:09:41,380

Ryan and one of the competency books

195

00:09:45,480 --> 00:09:43,079

become President of the United States

196

00:09:47,190 --> 00:09:45,490

not to mention not to mention by the way

197

00:09:53,730 --> 00:09:47,200

that al Qaeda is known for suicide

198

00:10:00,800 --> 00:09:53,740

bombings and had plotted large-scale

199

00:10:03,870 --> 00:10:00,810

attacks against planes that al Qaeda had

200

00:10:08,790 --> 00:10:03,880

aimed again to sort of hijack and

201
00:10:11,400 --> 00:10:08,800
explode airliners in the late 1990s

202
00:10:14,670 --> 00:10:11,410
notice the Bojinka plot so how do you

203
00:10:18,060 --> 00:10:14,680
explain then the reaction of the the

204
00:10:21,689 --> 00:10:18,070
people at the helm that day that these

205
00:10:23,370 --> 00:10:21,699
hijackings were not likely to result in

206
00:10:25,620 --> 00:10:23,380
them flying into buildings that they're

207
00:10:28,710 --> 00:10:25,630
gonna be more of a traditional hijacking

208
00:10:30,030 --> 00:10:28,720
for money or extortion yeah I mean one

209
00:10:32,490 --> 00:10:30,040
of the things is you know in those

210
00:10:35,730 --> 00:10:32,500
initial minutes there was there was not

211
00:10:38,730 --> 00:10:35,740
clarity that it was an al Qaeda plot you

212
00:10:41,610 --> 00:10:38,740
know hijackings have a long history

213
00:10:44,220 --> 00:10:41,620

inside the United States mean we sort of

214

00:10:47,400 --> 00:10:44,230

forget now that actually hijackings were

215

00:10:49,170 --> 00:10:47,410

quite common in the 1960s and 1970s in

216

00:10:51,180 --> 00:10:49,180

the 1970s

217

00:10:53,670 --> 00:10:51,190

you know you early nineteen seventies

218

00:10:55,680 --> 00:10:53,680

you have a hijacking almost every week

219

00:10:57,800 --> 00:10:55,690

of a commercial airliner inside the

220

00:11:00,720 --> 00:10:57,810

United States so this is something that

221

00:11:02,490 --> 00:11:00,730

you know we have a lot of history with

222

00:11:06,240 --> 00:11:02,500

that the air traffic controllers that

223

00:11:07,900 --> 00:11:06,250

they had worked hijackings before and

224

00:11:10,480 --> 00:11:07,910

that they had all ended peaceful

225

00:11:14,080 --> 00:11:10,490

and they all had ended with the aircraft

226

00:11:17,380 --> 00:11:14,090

intact on the ground and there and so

227

00:11:23,710 --> 00:11:17,390

you know this was a scenario that really

228

00:11:25,990 --> 00:11:23,720

just whelmed response and unfolded more

229

00:11:29,800 --> 00:11:26,000

quickly than anything that people could

230

00:11:34,200 --> 00:11:29,810

sort of get their heads around so with

231

00:11:37,570 --> 00:11:34,210

hindsight there should have been more

232

00:11:40,210 --> 00:11:37,580

education and awareness of this

233

00:11:42,880 --> 00:11:40,220

possibility of the people that were

234

00:11:44,830 --> 00:11:42,890

working in the various positions the the

235

00:11:49,150 --> 00:11:44,840

the the the first responders from an air

236

00:11:51,640 --> 00:11:49,160

traffic standpoint potentially but I'm

237

00:11:55,120 --> 00:11:51,650

not actually sure that you know this was

238

00:11:58,020 --> 00:11:55,130

this was sort of a systemic failure of

239

00:12:02,110 --> 00:11:58,030

imagination you know that that morning

240

00:12:04,540 --> 00:12:02,120

we didn't have armed aircraft on the

241

00:12:07,210 --> 00:12:04,550

ground across the country that would

242

00:12:08,980 --> 00:12:07,220

have been able to intercept that for the

243

00:12:11,950 --> 00:12:08,990

most part you know in the entire country

244

00:12:14,440 --> 00:12:11,960

there were only eight alert aircraft

245

00:12:20,110 --> 00:12:14,450

sitting armed on par max around the

246

00:12:23,710 --> 00:12:20,120

country do in Massachusetts - in the

247

00:12:27,220 --> 00:12:23,720

northwest - in the southern the United

248

00:12:30,850 --> 00:12:27,230

States that did drug interdiction and -

249

00:12:33,970 --> 00:12:30,860

at Langley Air Force Base in outside of

250

00:12:35,350 --> 00:12:33,980

washing and so you know that is

251
00:12:37,810 --> 00:12:35,360
obviously one thing that has

252
00:12:41,350 --> 00:12:37,820
dramatically changed but those fighters

253
00:12:46,150 --> 00:12:41,360
that day primarily geared towards

254
00:12:49,480 --> 00:12:46,160
intercepting still in 2001 years for

255
00:12:51,940 --> 00:12:49,490
intercepting incoming Russian aircraft

256
00:12:54,550 --> 00:12:51,950
you know the Langley aircraft in

257
00:12:56,140 --> 00:12:54,560
Virginia when they were scrambled off

258
00:12:59,200 --> 00:12:56,150
the ground on the morning of 9/11 they

259
00:13:02,500 --> 00:12:59,210
weren't initially told what they were

260
00:13:05,530 --> 00:13:02,510
responding to and so they took off as

261
00:13:08,230 --> 00:13:05,540
per their prior protocols and flew out

262
00:13:11,830 --> 00:13:08,240
towards the Atlantic looking to

263
00:13:13,750 --> 00:13:11,840

intercept an incoming plane before they

264

00:13:15,930 --> 00:13:13,760

were told actually that you know the

265

00:13:19,000 --> 00:13:15,940

threat was already over the capital

266

00:13:21,890 --> 00:13:19,010

let's talk about what the original plan

267

00:13:25,990 --> 00:13:21,900

of the terrorists was

268

00:13:29,680 --> 00:13:26,000

first of all there was there was 20

269

00:13:34,970 --> 00:13:29,690

hijackers but only 19 showed up right

270

00:13:36,440 --> 00:13:34,980

yes so it's a little bit complicated I'm

271

00:13:41,930 --> 00:13:36,450

not sure we sort of still fully

272

00:13:46,640 --> 00:13:41,940

understand the 20th hijacker was turned

273

00:13:48,200 --> 00:13:46,650

away by immigration authorities and he

274

00:13:50,600 --> 00:13:48,210

tried to enter the United States in the

275

00:13:53,960 --> 00:13:50,610

summer of 2001 I think it was down and

276

00:13:57,130 --> 00:13:53,970

flora member correctly but he was turned

277

00:14:01,130 --> 00:13:57,140

away and then you had the role of

278

00:14:03,380 --> 00:14:01,140

Zacharias loose alley in Minnesota who

279

00:14:06,250 --> 00:14:03,390

was one of the only people that ever

280

00:14:09,740 --> 00:14:06,260

been convicted of being a co-conspirator

281

00:14:11,240 --> 00:14:09,750

of 9/11 ci sorry I I sort of assumed

282

00:14:17,510 --> 00:14:11,250

that that was the so-called 20th

283

00:14:19,640 --> 00:14:17,520

hijacker no no the original 20th

284

00:14:28,100 --> 00:14:19,650

hijacker was away if I remember

285

00:14:31,910 --> 00:14:28,110

correctly and hijacker and why didn't he

286

00:14:32,900 --> 00:14:31,920

why didn't he participate that day I he

287

00:14:36,740 --> 00:14:32,910

was already under arrest

288

00:14:37,940 --> 00:14:36,750

he had already been caught by the I

289

00:14:40,580 --> 00:14:37,950

gotcha

290

00:14:44,150 --> 00:14:40,590

so on the day of they weren't expecting

291

00:14:47,110 --> 00:14:44,160

a 20th guy it was five guys for three of

292

00:14:49,610 --> 00:14:47,120

the planes four for the other one and

293

00:14:52,940 --> 00:14:49,620

what is it what is your understanding as

294

00:14:55,040 --> 00:14:52,950

to what their objective was in other

295

00:15:02,050 --> 00:14:55,050

words if everything went exactly to

296

00:15:12,500 --> 00:15:04,520

effectively they carried out you know

297

00:15:16,370 --> 00:15:12,510

three of their four attacks are as we

298

00:15:17,750 --> 00:15:16,380

know the you know the new planes

299

00:15:21,110 --> 00:15:17,760

instruct the World Trade Center were

300

00:15:25,220 --> 00:15:21,120

intended to go there and the plane that

301
00:15:26,050 --> 00:15:25,230
hit the Pentagon was intended to go to

302
00:15:29,570 --> 00:15:26,060
the Pentagon

303
00:15:30,970 --> 00:15:29,580
there is still an open question and I

304
00:15:34,240 --> 00:15:30,980
don't know whether we will

305
00:15:36,340 --> 00:15:34,250
no or absolute sure now they're the

306
00:15:40,840 --> 00:15:36,350
ultimate destination of the United

307
00:15:42,819 --> 00:15:40,850
flight 93 was supposed to be before the

308
00:15:46,090 --> 00:15:42,829
hijackers crashed it after the

309
00:15:50,829 --> 00:15:46,100
passengers fought back in size over

310
00:15:53,290 --> 00:15:50,839
Pennsylvania the speculation is that it

311
00:15:57,370 --> 00:15:53,300
would have been aimed for either the

312
00:15:59,800 --> 00:15:57,380
White House or the Capitol although that

313
00:16:03,610 --> 00:15:59,810

sort of opinions are split on which of

314

00:16:06,910 --> 00:16:03,620

those was the most likely target my

315

00:16:09,460 --> 00:16:06,920

personal opinion and it is you know not

316

00:16:13,150 --> 00:16:09,470

informed by any knowledge not available

317

00:16:16,150 --> 00:16:13,160

to others is that it was likely headed

318

00:16:20,829 --> 00:16:16,160

to the Capitol which is a much larger

319

00:16:23,319 --> 00:16:20,839

and easier target to hit from the air at

320

00:16:27,129 --> 00:16:23,329

500 miles an hour the the White House is

321

00:16:29,439 --> 00:16:27,139

pretty hemmed in by other buildings and

322

00:16:32,350 --> 00:16:29,449

would have only been approachable from a

323

00:16:33,939 --> 00:16:32,360

single angle whereas you know you could

324

00:16:36,250 --> 00:16:33,949

have come at the Capitol from any number

325

00:16:39,879 --> 00:16:36,260

of angles some people point out that

326

00:16:42,490 --> 00:16:39,889

this would take highly skilled pilots in

327

00:16:44,889 --> 00:16:42,500

order to guide it directly into the

328

00:16:46,960 --> 00:16:44,899

Pentagon or into the Twin Towers for

329

00:16:49,870 --> 00:16:46,970

that matter what what do you know about

330

00:16:51,280 --> 00:16:49,880

how skilled these guys were and what

331

00:16:54,069 --> 00:16:51,290

level skill would require to pull off

332

00:16:57,670 --> 00:16:54,079

what they did certainly they were

333

00:17:00,280 --> 00:16:57,680

skilled enough to do what they did I'm

334

00:17:06,329 --> 00:17:00,290

not a pilot so I can't speak to the

335

00:17:09,909 --> 00:17:06,339

level of laxity of their their attack or

336

00:17:12,549 --> 00:17:09,919

you know obviously they they had been

337

00:17:14,760 --> 00:17:12,559

training sufficient you lop what they

338

00:17:18,370 --> 00:17:14,770

did mm-hm

339

00:17:20,860 --> 00:17:18,380

what what kind of in retrospect is the

340

00:17:23,890 --> 00:17:20,870

one thing that you think could have been

341

00:17:25,870 --> 00:17:23,900

done to prevent this as you know you

342

00:17:27,669 --> 00:17:25,880

look right I mean reading your book and

343

00:17:29,770 --> 00:17:27,679

thinking about it also watching the

344

00:17:31,450 --> 00:17:29,780

movie last night one thing that comes to

345

00:17:35,950 --> 00:17:31,460

my mind is that it did take them a while

346

00:17:37,810 --> 00:17:35,960

to decide to ground all planes it I

347

00:17:39,850 --> 00:17:37,820

believe that the second plane had

348

00:17:42,940 --> 00:17:39,860

already hit the World Trade Center

349

00:17:44,680 --> 00:17:42,950

while United 93 still on the ground it

350

00:17:46,600 --> 00:17:44,690

didn't take off until

351
00:17:48,669 --> 00:17:46,610
a few minutes after that second one hit

352
00:17:50,919 --> 00:17:48,679
the tower you would have thought that

353
00:17:54,310 --> 00:17:50,929
when the second one hits there should

354
00:17:57,279 --> 00:17:54,320
been orders to ground all planes I think

355
00:18:03,249 --> 00:17:57,289
the the biggest missed opportunity of

356
00:18:06,340 --> 00:18:03,259
that the attack was actually over the

357
00:18:08,320 --> 00:18:06,350
course of that summer and where you had

358
00:18:12,970 --> 00:18:08,330
a failure of communication between the

359
00:18:17,169 --> 00:18:12,980
CIA and the FBI and the CIA was aware

360
00:18:18,909 --> 00:18:17,179
that two of the hijackers although

361
00:18:20,470 --> 00:18:18,919
obviously they didn't know that they

362
00:18:22,960 --> 00:18:20,480
were hijackers they just knew that they

363
00:18:26,799 --> 00:18:22,970

were suspects like al-qaeda Khalid

364

00:18:29,680 --> 00:18:26,809

al-mihdhar and Allah al Azmi were inside

365

00:18:33,220 --> 00:18:29,690

in the United States that summer and

366

00:18:38,619 --> 00:18:33,230

that was information that the CIA failed

367

00:18:43,119 --> 00:18:38,629

to tell the FBI and that to be is the

368

00:18:46,330 --> 00:18:43,129

thing that sort of most clearly had that

369

00:18:49,889 --> 00:18:46,340

information had been communicated to the

370

00:18:54,759 --> 00:18:49,899

FBI could have altered the trajectory of

371

00:18:57,039 --> 00:18:54,769

the attacks of 9/11 you know I think I

372

00:19:01,720 --> 00:18:57,049

think we miss understand a little bit

373

00:19:05,230 --> 00:19:01,730

what interdicting the 9/11 plot would

374

00:19:07,860 --> 00:19:05,240

have meant you know I think there's sort

375

00:19:11,310 --> 00:19:07,870

of this idea in the popular imagination

376

00:19:14,409 --> 00:19:11,320

that's stopping the 9/11 plot you know

377

00:19:19,269 --> 00:19:14,419

would have been you know SWAT teams

378

00:19:21,879 --> 00:19:19,279

kicking in you know 19 doors on the

379

00:19:24,759 --> 00:19:21,889

morning of September 10th and arresting

380

00:19:25,659 --> 00:19:24,769

all the hijackers and everything goes on

381

00:19:29,110 --> 00:19:25,669

about their day

382

00:19:31,240 --> 00:19:29,120

I think the much more likely scenario of

383

00:19:33,580 --> 00:19:31,250

what would have happened if we had been

384

00:19:35,919 --> 00:19:33,590

able to successfully disrupt that plot is

385

00:19:39,399 --> 00:19:35,929

that we wouldn't have necessarily ever

386

00:19:42,180 --> 00:19:39,409

known that the 9/11 plot was under way

387

00:19:45,039 --> 00:19:42,190

that's sort of what we could have done

388

00:19:49,720 --> 00:19:45,049

was you know take a couple of these

389

00:19:51,519 --> 00:19:49,730

terrorists off the board and you know we

390

00:19:54,190 --> 00:19:51,529

might not have ever actually understood

391

00:19:56,930 --> 00:19:54,200

what the plot was that they had been

392

00:19:59,000 --> 00:19:56,940

doing and aiming for

393

00:20:02,480 --> 00:19:59,010

and you know they might very well have

394

00:20:04,880 --> 00:20:02,490

carried out the plot at a leader you

395

00:20:08,510 --> 00:20:04,890

know that those security vulnerabilities

396

00:20:10,850 --> 00:20:08,520

might well have persisted and allowed

397

00:20:14,630 --> 00:20:10,860

them to reconstitute and do the attack

398

00:20:18,590 --> 00:20:14,640

you know let's say in 2002 which is

399

00:20:21,290 --> 00:20:18,600

effectively exactly what you saw happen

400

00:20:24,200 --> 00:20:21,300

with the bombing of the USS Cole you

401
00:20:29,710 --> 00:20:24,210
know the original al-qaida plot had been

402
00:20:34,730 --> 00:20:29,720
to attacked the USS Fitzgerald's in in

403
00:20:40,220 --> 00:20:34,740
2000 as part of the Millennium plot and

404
00:20:42,980 --> 00:20:40,230
and blow up the USS with barrels during

405
00:20:46,700 --> 00:20:42,990
a port visit there months and months

406
00:20:49,250 --> 00:20:46,710
earlier but this skill that al-qaeda had

407
00:20:53,060 --> 00:20:49,260
loaded the bomb onto was overloaded and

408
00:20:55,130 --> 00:20:53,070
it sank and the USS Fitzgerald you know

409
00:20:56,930 --> 00:20:55,140
went on without ever realizing it had

410
00:20:59,690 --> 00:20:56,940
been the target of a bomb plot and we

411
00:21:02,810 --> 00:20:59,700
had no idea that this plot was underway

412
00:21:05,860 --> 00:21:02,820
until al Khaimah sort of reconstituted

413
00:21:09,380 --> 00:21:05,870

itself and successfully attacked all

414

00:21:10,940 --> 00:21:09,390

later in 2000 so you're saying there

415

00:21:14,660 --> 00:21:10,950

theoretically could have been a

416

00:21:18,560 --> 00:21:14,670

temporary disruption because FBI could

417

00:21:20,630 --> 00:21:18,570

have detained a few of these hijackers

418

00:21:25,100 --> 00:21:20,640

that were in the middle of their

419

00:21:27,070 --> 00:21:25,110

training effectively yes you know we

420

00:21:29,660 --> 00:21:27,080

might have been able to sort of

421

00:21:33,320 --> 00:21:29,670

disrupted this plot at the training

422

00:21:35,420 --> 00:21:33,330

stage or the planning stage you know

423

00:21:38,210 --> 00:21:35,430

without ever necessarily understanding

424

00:21:40,520 --> 00:21:38,220

what we were does that give air to

425

00:21:41,660 --> 00:21:40,530

conspiracy theorists who say that oh us

426

00:21:47,420 --> 00:21:41,670

knew this was going to happen and

427

00:21:53,300 --> 00:21:47,430

allowed it to happen no sort of a

428

00:21:56,900 --> 00:21:53,310

variety of reasons one of which is you

429

00:21:58,700 --> 00:21:56,910

know it was actually a very complicated

430

00:22:03,350 --> 00:21:58,710

situation that was unfolding between the

431

00:22:08,660 --> 00:22:03,360

FBI and the CIA in the spring in summer

432

00:22:11,030 --> 00:22:08,670

of 2001 the CIA did not necessarily have

433

00:22:13,970 --> 00:22:11,040

great reason but they had reason

434

00:22:17,080 --> 00:22:13,980

or why they didn't share the information

435

00:22:19,760 --> 00:22:17,090

they should have shared with the FBI

436

00:22:22,580 --> 00:22:19,770

there were some legal structures in

437

00:22:25,460 --> 00:22:22,590

place at the time that the CIA thought

438

00:22:28,700 --> 00:22:25,470

it made difficult in order to share

439

00:22:30,980 --> 00:22:28,710

intelligence directly with the FBI and

440

00:22:34,040 --> 00:22:30,990

then sort of just more broadly I put

441

00:22:37,210 --> 00:22:34,050

very very little weight on conspiracy

442

00:22:41,270 --> 00:22:37,220

theories involving the US government

443

00:22:44,060 --> 00:22:41,280

because it's someone who has covered the

444

00:22:45,350 --> 00:22:44,070

US government and intelligence and

445

00:22:50,290 --> 00:22:45,360

national security and federal law

446

00:22:53,090 --> 00:22:50,300

enforcement for 15 years

447

00:22:57,200 --> 00:22:53,100

conspiracies serious conspiracy theories

448

00:23:00,290 --> 00:22:57,210

presuppose a level of confidence that is

449

00:23:01,880 --> 00:23:00,300

not necessarily on display in the

450

00:23:02,990 --> 00:23:01,890

day-to-day activities of the US

451
00:23:05,000 --> 00:23:03,000
government

452
00:23:08,990 --> 00:23:05,010
that makes it very hard for me to

453
00:23:11,450 --> 00:23:09,000
imagine that you would ever be able to

454
00:23:15,140 --> 00:23:11,460
carry out a conspiracy theory

455
00:23:16,730 --> 00:23:15,150
successfully and then keep it quiet for

456
00:23:17,410 --> 00:23:16,740
as long as it would need to be kept

457
00:23:19,970 --> 00:23:17,420
quiet

458
00:23:23,630 --> 00:23:19,980
well we think along the same lines when

459
00:23:24,890 --> 00:23:23,640
it comes to that I never it's impossible

460
00:23:27,580 --> 00:23:24,900
to overestimate government incompetence

461
00:23:31,280 --> 00:23:27,590
we've been covering the Jeffrey Epstein

462
00:23:33,530 --> 00:23:31,290
death and there's another example of

463
00:23:36,320 --> 00:23:33,540

prison incompetence leading to a death

464

00:23:40,130 --> 00:23:36,330

as opposed to a conspiracy which many

465

00:23:42,230 --> 00:23:40,140

people believe in yeah I think you're

466

00:23:43,910 --> 00:23:42,240

absolutely right and you know and I

467

00:23:47,180 --> 00:23:43,920

think that bears true for the sort of

468

00:23:49,340 --> 00:23:47,190

full range of the 9/11 conspiracy

469

00:23:52,370 --> 00:23:49,350

theories you know whether you are

470

00:23:54,980 --> 00:23:52,380

talking about you know the US government

471

00:23:58,570 --> 00:23:54,990

having foreknowledge or the idea that

472

00:24:01,010 --> 00:23:58,580

has been sort of on time and again that

473

00:24:04,820 --> 00:24:01,020

you know the twin towers were brought

474

00:24:06,650 --> 00:24:04,830

down by internal demolition let's state

475

00:24:09,770 --> 00:24:06,660

let's cover that one real quick so I did

476

00:24:12,590 --> 00:24:09,780

want to talk about the towers first of

477

00:24:16,510 --> 00:24:12,600

all how many towers were there

478

00:24:21,789 --> 00:24:16,520

it wasn't like eight seven or eight yeah

479

00:24:24,820 --> 00:24:21,799

World Trade Center complex involved

480

00:24:26,529 --> 00:24:24,830

you know a number of building sort of

481

00:24:28,659 --> 00:24:26,539

many more than we sort of typically

482

00:24:30,609 --> 00:24:28,669

think of you have but the two main

483

00:24:33,070 --> 00:24:30,619

towers World Trade Center One World

484

00:24:35,529 --> 00:24:33,080

Trade Center two we have the Marriott

485

00:24:38,289 --> 00:24:35,539

Hotel which was sandwiched between them

486

00:24:40,509 --> 00:24:38,299

48 story Marriott hotel and then you had

487

00:24:42,909 --> 00:24:40,519

other World Trade Center buildings that

488

00:24:45,369 --> 00:24:42,919

were part of that complex you know

489

00:24:46,779 --> 00:24:45,379

building 3 building or building 5 right

490

00:24:52,499 --> 00:24:46,789

up to building 7

491

00:24:58,139 --> 00:24:52,509

so total of 7 ended all 7 come down no

492

00:25:01,149 --> 00:24:58,149

all of them involved serious damage

493

00:25:07,109 --> 00:25:01,159

Marriott Hotel was effectively

494

00:25:14,979 --> 00:25:11,109

sort of second largest tower collapse at

495

00:25:19,899 --> 00:25:14,989

the end of the day after you know a day

496

00:25:23,859 --> 00:25:19,909

of unsustainable and were completely

497

00:25:26,229 --> 00:25:23,869

sustained unpadding fire tower Tower 7

498

00:25:29,470 --> 00:25:26,239

you're talking about sticking with the

499

00:25:31,239 --> 00:25:29,480

Marriott because I really had had lost I

500

00:25:36,099 --> 00:25:31,249

had forgotten about the Marriott till I

501
00:25:41,590 --> 00:25:36,109
read your book so did people die inside

502
00:25:43,930 --> 00:25:41,600
the Marriott yes and Marriott was you

503
00:25:47,320 --> 00:25:43,940
know it was a pretty building that

504
00:25:51,609 --> 00:25:47,330
basically bore the brunt of both Tower 1

505
00:25:53,409 --> 00:25:51,619
and power 2 falling on top of it and so

506
00:25:55,299 --> 00:25:53,419
there were some people who survived who

507
00:25:58,989 --> 00:25:55,309
were inside of it and my book follows

508
00:26:00,820 --> 00:25:58,999
some of them but there were certainly

509
00:26:02,979 --> 00:26:00,830
many casualties in and around the

510
00:26:06,029 --> 00:26:02,989
Marriott develop it was being evacuated

511
00:26:12,460 --> 00:26:06,039
I presume but whoever didn't evacuate

512
00:26:18,009 --> 00:26:12,470
yes first responders were building the

513
00:26:21,220 --> 00:26:18,019

evacuation interesting leave in your

514

00:26:23,080 --> 00:26:21,230

book correct me if I'm wrong in the

515

00:26:24,729 --> 00:26:23,090

South Tower the North Tower is the first

516

00:26:27,909 --> 00:26:24,739

one to go down first when to be hit

517

00:26:31,149 --> 00:26:27,919

right and go down the North Tower was

518

00:26:33,549 --> 00:26:31,159

the first to be hit the South Tower was

519

00:26:34,470 --> 00:26:33,559

the first to come down okay I had

520

00:26:37,410 --> 00:26:34,480

forgotten that

521

00:26:40,440 --> 00:26:37,420

but after the after the North Tower was

522

00:26:42,810 --> 00:26:40,450

hit specifically there was announcements

523

00:26:47,070 --> 00:26:42,820

in the South Tower were fine do not

524

00:26:49,380 --> 00:26:47,080

evacuate yes and that is that's another

525

00:26:52,380 --> 00:26:49,390

one of those moments that sort of really

526

00:26:56,760 --> 00:26:52,390

makes clear just how different the

527

00:26:59,070 --> 00:26:56,770

American psyche was on that day you know

528

00:27:02,400 --> 00:26:59,080

that people sort of literally sat at

529

00:27:05,400 --> 00:27:02,410

their desks in power to watch that first

530

00:27:08,070 --> 00:27:05,410

crash into the North Tower from their

531

00:27:11,490 --> 00:27:08,080

desks and then remained at their desks

532

00:27:13,650 --> 00:27:11,500

and some of them actually went some of

533

00:27:15,420 --> 00:27:13,660

them began to evacuate the Port

534

00:27:17,130 --> 00:27:15,430

Authority came on the building live in

535

00:27:21,240 --> 00:27:17,140

that public announcement system and

536

00:27:22,260 --> 00:27:21,250

turned around and said the incident has

537

00:27:24,270 --> 00:27:22,270

been contained

538

00:27:27,170 --> 00:27:24,280

the North Tower please feel free to

539

00:27:31,260 --> 00:27:27,180

return to your desks yeah incredible

540

00:27:34,320 --> 00:27:31,270

so there's experts on both sides of this

541

00:27:39,390 --> 00:27:34,330

I believe but tell me what you know

542

00:27:41,340 --> 00:27:39,400

about the experts saying that yes a 747

543

00:27:43,370 --> 00:27:41,350

can cause one of these towers to

544

00:27:51,840 --> 00:27:43,380

collapse you do not need additional

545

00:27:57,450 --> 00:27:51,850

explosives for that very well proven

546

00:28:01,830 --> 00:27:57,460

over the engineering reports done by

547

00:28:04,710 --> 00:28:01,840

NIST and others about this but what you

548

00:28:09,780 --> 00:28:04,720

basically had was a was less the impact

549

00:28:14,190 --> 00:28:09,790

of the planes and more the burning jet

550

00:28:16,980 --> 00:28:14,200

fuel that melted the metal that

551
00:28:19,350 --> 00:28:16,990
literally held up the World Trade Center

552
00:28:21,720 --> 00:28:19,360
and so from there once that metal was

553
00:28:23,600 --> 00:28:21,730
softened and melted the building

554
00:28:26,700 --> 00:28:23,610
basically began to collapse on itself

555
00:28:29,400 --> 00:28:26,710
but there are experts to the contrary

556
00:28:31,980 --> 00:28:29,410
who say no it's not possible

557
00:28:35,310 --> 00:28:31,990
there are no experts who are respected

558
00:28:38,610 --> 00:28:35,320
on the other side there there there is

559
00:28:41,610 --> 00:28:38,620
no plausible explanation where the

560
00:28:44,700 --> 00:28:41,620
buildings coming down other than the

561
00:28:46,560 --> 00:28:44,710
crash and what about tower 7 what's the

562
00:28:47,910 --> 00:28:46,570
explanation for how that went down even

563
00:28:52,200 --> 00:28:47,920

though it wasn't impacted

564

00:28:55,980 --> 00:28:52,210

rectly by a plane I it was impacted by

565

00:28:59,190 --> 00:28:55,990

the falling debris and because it's much

566

00:29:02,280 --> 00:28:59,200

lower region fires yeah so it's the the

567

00:29:07,250 --> 00:29:02,290

towers are 110 stories approximately

568

00:29:10,650 --> 00:29:07,260

whereas tower seven was uh he was in the

569

00:29:14,160 --> 00:29:10,660

exact number but you know have to have

570

00:29:15,900 --> 00:29:14,170

to serve so theoretically debris from

571

00:29:19,260 --> 00:29:15,910

that from the Twin Towers is falling on

572

00:29:21,030 --> 00:29:19,270

top of that correct and ultimately the

573

00:29:23,520 --> 00:29:21,040

weight of that brings it down or were

574

00:29:24,870 --> 00:29:23,530

there fires that happen inside yeah so

575

00:29:29,400 --> 00:29:24,880

that basically what ends up happening

576

00:29:31,620 --> 00:29:29,410

over the day is those fires the fires

577

00:29:34,170 --> 00:29:31,630

that start from the debris that starts

578

00:29:38,480 --> 00:29:34,180

from the fires coming down from tower

579

00:29:41,550 --> 00:29:38,490

one in power to earn unrestricted and

580

00:29:48,240 --> 00:29:41,560

through the course of that entire day

581

00:29:50,040 --> 00:29:48,250

and the you know the FDNY the New York

582

00:29:53,700 --> 00:29:50,050

Fire Department they they made a

583

00:29:55,920 --> 00:29:53,710

conscious decision to not fight that

584

00:29:59,160 --> 00:29:55,930

higher both because of the risk to their

585

00:30:02,610 --> 00:29:59,170

personnel but then also due to you know

586

00:30:05,610 --> 00:30:02,620

the overwhelming disaster that had

587

00:30:07,410 --> 00:30:05,620

already befallen the city with the

588

00:30:10,620 --> 00:30:07,420

collapse of power one in power too but

589

00:30:12,570 --> 00:30:10,630

they didn't want it already lost 343

590

00:30:15,300 --> 00:30:12,580

firefighters that day and didn't want to

591

00:30:18,330 --> 00:30:15,310

lose any more is that ultimately the

592

00:30:20,880 --> 00:30:18,340

total number that were lost of the

593

00:30:24,680 --> 00:30:20,890

firefighters yes and then there were

594

00:30:27,570 --> 00:30:24,690

about a hundred other first responders

595

00:30:31,980 --> 00:30:27,580

who were killed Port Authority police

596

00:30:35,880 --> 00:30:31,990

New York City police NYPD Secret Service

597

00:30:39,930 --> 00:30:35,890

FBI Fire Marshal's other personnel like

598

00:30:44,370 --> 00:30:39,940

that yeah and the hero was so many of

599

00:30:45,720 --> 00:30:44,380

them that probably knew they were not

600

00:30:51,180 --> 00:30:45,730

going to survive and still went into

601
00:30:55,110 --> 00:30:51,190
that building yeah you know I quote some

602
00:30:57,150 --> 00:30:55,120
of the FDNY leaders the ones who

603
00:30:59,340 --> 00:30:57,160
survived by they talking about that

604
00:31:01,200 --> 00:30:59,350
decision

605
00:31:03,150 --> 00:31:01,210
and the bravery of the firefighters who

606
00:31:07,159 --> 00:31:03,160
were going up even as people were coming

607
00:31:11,130 --> 00:31:07,169
down and they talked about sort of how

608
00:31:16,169 --> 00:31:11,140
what their their rescue personnel did

609
00:31:18,539 --> 00:31:16,179
was they provided hope craft meaning

610
00:31:22,560 --> 00:31:18,549
remember there were about 1100 people

611
00:31:26,690 --> 00:31:22,570
who survived the attack but were trapped

612
00:31:30,990 --> 00:31:26,700
above the impact zone and that you know

613
00:31:33,810 --> 00:31:31,000

those most of them did not realize that

614

00:31:36,570 --> 00:31:33,820

their lives were ultimately at risk but

615

00:31:40,440 --> 00:31:36,580

you know that the towers would fall and

616

00:31:42,840 --> 00:31:40,450

so the your firefighters who were ending

617

00:31:44,580 --> 00:31:42,850

up to save them you know thought that

618

00:31:49,080 --> 00:31:44,590

they had an opportunity to actually

619

00:31:52,940 --> 00:31:49,090

rescue them do we know whether bin Laden

620

00:31:57,600 --> 00:31:52,950

himself expected the towers to fall I

621

00:32:01,669 --> 00:31:57,610

think the consensus is that they did

622

00:32:09,000 --> 00:32:01,679

that al Qaeda did not understand that

623

00:32:12,570 --> 00:32:09,010

the buildings would come down that they

624

00:32:15,779 --> 00:32:12,580

certainly understood that by choosing

625

00:32:19,380 --> 00:32:15,789

long distance transcontinental flights

626

00:32:21,510 --> 00:32:19,390

they were maximizing the exclusive

627

00:32:26,120 --> 00:32:21,520

capabilities of the planes that they

628

00:32:30,690 --> 00:32:26,130

were hijacking but that they were not

629

00:32:33,990 --> 00:32:30,700

they were not necessarily gambling on

630

00:32:36,060 --> 00:32:34,000

the towers coming down yeah I mean even

631

00:32:38,880 --> 00:32:36,070

experts probably if you had consulted

632

00:32:42,270 --> 00:32:38,890

them may not have necessarily known that

633

00:32:44,460 --> 00:32:42,280

until it actually happens right and you

634

00:32:49,200 --> 00:32:44,470

know for much of the initial response

635

00:32:53,159 --> 00:32:49,210

there the fire department's expectation

636

00:32:56,460 --> 00:32:53,169

was that sort of basically the buildings

637

00:32:58,140 --> 00:32:56,470

would be a loss above the impact that

638

00:33:00,990 --> 00:32:58,150

they wouldn't necessarily be able to put

639

00:33:04,399 --> 00:33:01,000

the fires out whether the fires would

640

00:33:06,960 --> 00:33:04,409

sort of burn their way to the top and

641

00:33:10,320 --> 00:33:06,970

destroy the tops of the World Trade

642

00:33:11,850 --> 00:33:10,330

Center but you know it was not until I'm

643

00:33:16,100 --> 00:33:11,860

you know late in the night

644

00:33:19,919 --> 00:33:16,110

our that morning I really do understand

645

00:33:22,710 --> 00:33:19,929

that the buildings themselves now yeah

646

00:33:25,230 --> 00:33:22,720

and that that adds to the chaos on the

647

00:33:27,480 --> 00:33:25,240

street because first everybody thinks

648

00:33:29,490 --> 00:33:27,490

it's a small plane even when they've

649

00:33:32,580 --> 00:33:29,500

there's a second plane and even perhaps

650

00:33:34,710 --> 00:33:32,590

when people realized that they were jets

651
00:33:36,509 --> 00:33:34,720
that had flown into them to your point

652
00:33:41,220 --> 00:33:36,519
nobody is expecting these buildings to

653
00:33:43,560 --> 00:33:41,230
come down did do they were but I guess

654
00:33:45,440 --> 00:33:43,570
they were evacuating the area though or

655
00:33:48,899 --> 00:33:45,450
were people just leaving on their own

656
00:33:52,490 --> 00:33:48,909
both we're very actively evacuating the

657
00:33:54,690 --> 00:33:52,500
buildings even below the impact zones

658
00:33:56,490 --> 00:33:54,700
but how about the area around the

659
00:34:00,180 --> 00:33:56,500
buildings consider yeah and then

660
00:34:06,180 --> 00:34:00,190
evacuating the buildings and other areas

661
00:34:08,070 --> 00:34:06,190
around them so a friend of mine who

662
00:34:09,270 --> 00:34:08,080
would have been a great interview for

663
00:34:09,930 --> 00:34:09,280

your book even though you hit you have

664

00:34:12,659 --> 00:34:09,940

plenty of them

665

00:34:14,460 --> 00:34:12,669

you didn't need more but I just vividly

666

00:34:17,550 --> 00:34:14,470

remember his story because he was

667

00:34:20,730 --> 00:34:17,560

working a few blocks away from it and to

668

00:34:23,520 --> 00:34:20,740

just talk about the chaos and you know

669

00:34:25,649 --> 00:34:23,530

on the one hand everybody underestimated

670

00:34:27,240 --> 00:34:25,659

the attack at the outset as you point

671

00:34:29,369 --> 00:34:27,250

out they didn't know nobody's thinking

672

00:34:33,379 --> 00:34:29,379

terror they're thinking some idiot flew

673

00:34:37,310 --> 00:34:33,389

a small plane into the building but then

674

00:34:39,869 --> 00:34:37,320

it ended up being people ultimately over

675

00:34:43,200 --> 00:34:39,879

stating what they thought it was that

676
00:34:46,470 --> 00:34:43,210
basically New York was under attack that

677
00:34:48,690 --> 00:34:46,480
this was war and it wasn't just two

678
00:34:51,000 --> 00:34:48,700
planes that had flown in there was

679
00:34:54,180 --> 00:34:51,010
additional attacks because they're

680
00:34:56,700 --> 00:34:54,190
hearing one explosion after another

681
00:34:59,099 --> 00:34:56,710
there's one plane that go hits there's

682
00:35:01,260 --> 00:34:59,109
another plane there's a tower that goes

683
00:35:03,030 --> 00:35:01,270
down there's another tower that goes

684
00:35:06,810 --> 00:35:03,040
down there's a third tower that goes

685
00:35:09,630 --> 00:35:06,820
down and the absolute utter chaos and

686
00:35:12,599 --> 00:35:09,640
fear that was going on for people who

687
00:35:14,430 --> 00:35:12,609
were in Manhattan at the time that just

688
00:35:20,560 --> 00:35:14,440

assumed that we were under some type of

689

00:35:26,290 --> 00:35:24,100

I mean there you know there was fear

690

00:35:30,310 --> 00:35:26,300

when the first fighter planes got over

691

00:35:33,070 --> 00:35:30,320

New York City I quote people in the book

692

00:35:34,600 --> 00:35:33,080

talking about how they didn't

693

00:35:38,470 --> 00:35:34,610

necessarily think that those fighter

694

00:35:40,870 --> 00:35:38,480

planes belong to us you know the part of

695

00:35:44,860 --> 00:35:40,880

an ongoing attack one of the most

696

00:35:49,120 --> 00:35:44,870

confusing aspects of the day after the

697

00:35:51,790 --> 00:35:49,130

towers collapse for the first responders

698

00:35:56,310 --> 00:35:51,800

at you know what we now call Ground Zero

699

00:36:00,040 --> 00:35:56,320

the World Trade Center site is the

700

00:36:03,340 --> 00:36:00,050

Secret Service field office that was in

701

00:36:06,670 --> 00:36:03,350

the World Trade Center the in their

702

00:36:09,790 --> 00:36:06,680

vault you know they had a huge stockpile

703

00:36:14,020 --> 00:36:09,800

of ammunition and the ammunition began

704

00:36:16,510 --> 00:36:14,030

to cook off as the fires spread and so

705

00:36:19,380 --> 00:36:16,520

you know the police and first responders

706

00:36:21,640 --> 00:36:19,390

at Ground Zero or hearing gunshots Kalaa

707

00:36:23,830 --> 00:36:21,650

and you know they think that they're now

708

00:36:26,800 --> 00:36:23,840

under land assault from the you know the

709

00:36:30,430 --> 00:36:26,810

terrorists who are sweeping him after

710

00:36:35,290 --> 00:36:30,440

the crashes from the ground

711

00:36:37,450 --> 00:36:35,300

and you know the AI quotes were a number

712

00:36:39,430 --> 00:36:37,460

of different first responders who sort

713

00:36:41,800 --> 00:36:39,440

of all here these gunshots going off and

714

00:36:44,680 --> 00:36:41,810

think that they're under some sort of

715

00:36:46,450 --> 00:36:44,690

ground attack yeah we also covered the

716

00:36:49,060 --> 00:36:46,460

Las Vegas shooting in a lot of detail

717

00:36:52,090 --> 00:36:49,070

and it reminds me of that situation as

718

00:36:55,450 --> 00:36:52,100

it turns out conventional thinking is it

719

00:36:57,940 --> 00:36:55,460

was one guy by himself raining this

720

00:37:00,550 --> 00:36:57,950

incredible chaos below if you speak to

721

00:37:03,190 --> 00:37:00,560

the people who were at that concert nine

722

00:37:05,080 --> 00:37:03,200

out of ten will say no way was it one

723

00:37:07,000 --> 00:37:05,090

shooter that it was multiple shooters

724

00:37:09,250 --> 00:37:07,010

coming from multiple directions from the

725

00:37:11,890 --> 00:37:09,260

ground this and that because when you're

726
00:37:13,030 --> 00:37:11,900
in that chaotic situation you don't know

727
00:37:14,980 --> 00:37:13,040
that you know the sound of the bullets

728
00:37:19,080 --> 00:37:14,990
are echoing off of the the buildings in

729
00:37:28,440 --> 00:37:19,090
Vegas and so on and to them it was a

730
00:37:32,260 --> 00:37:28,450
multi-faceted terrorist attack I mean

731
00:37:33,900 --> 00:37:32,270
many mass shootings the first reports is

732
00:37:36,750 --> 00:37:33,910
for multiple gunmen

733
00:37:41,520 --> 00:37:36,760
and it you know almost always turns out

734
00:37:46,200 --> 00:37:41,530
and one of the tougher chapters of your

735
00:37:48,990 --> 00:37:46,210
book involves the people who jumped how

736
00:37:52,710 --> 00:37:49,000
many people do we do we think actually

737
00:37:55,650 --> 00:37:52,720
had jumped to their death out of the

738
00:37:59,130 --> 00:37:55,660

buildings I don't know that we have a

739

00:38:03,960 --> 00:37:59,140

real solid number you know it's

740

00:38:06,120 --> 00:38:03,970

certainly in the dozens and there you

741

00:38:08,730 --> 00:38:06,130

know there's also some it's important to

742

00:38:14,549 --> 00:38:08,740

understand some people spell some people

743

00:38:17,000 --> 00:38:14,559

jumped by choice and we don't know you

744

00:38:21,720 --> 00:38:17,010

know what the division between those

745

00:38:24,740 --> 00:38:21,730

categories necessarily is I you know in

746

00:38:28,859 --> 00:38:24,750

the neighborhood of a few a few dozen

747

00:38:31,200 --> 00:38:28,869

perhaps 100 Wow and that they were just

748

00:38:34,950 --> 00:38:31,210

in a circumstance where the flames had

749

00:38:42,240 --> 00:38:34,960

reached them and it was either burned to

750

00:38:44,940 --> 00:38:42,250

death or jump yes incredible to imagine

751
00:38:47,339 --> 00:38:44,950
what the circumstances must have been

752
00:38:50,370 --> 00:38:47,349
like for those people who did make a

753
00:38:52,349 --> 00:38:50,380
conscious decision to jump to imagine

754
00:38:56,010 --> 00:38:52,359
that sort of what lay ahead of them was

755
00:38:57,539 --> 00:38:56,020
better than what lay behind them and I

756
00:39:00,750 --> 00:38:57,549
was listening to this part of your book

757
00:39:03,870 --> 00:39:00,760
so correct me if I have it wrong but I

758
00:39:06,390 --> 00:39:03,880
thought what I heard is that one of the

759
00:39:15,440 --> 00:39:06,400
jumpers or someone who fell actually

760
00:39:22,200 --> 00:39:20,160
widely accepted first casualty of the

761
00:39:25,650 --> 00:39:22,210
New York City firefighters that day was

762
00:39:27,900 --> 00:39:25,660
firefighter named Danny sure hit by

763
00:39:31,260 --> 00:39:27,910

someone falling or jumping from the

764

00:39:35,760 --> 00:39:31,270

tower on the plaza outside the World

765

00:39:38,910 --> 00:39:35,770

Trade Center incredible the orders to

766

00:39:44,240 --> 00:39:38,920

shoot down the plane there's been a lot

767

00:39:47,130 --> 00:39:44,250

of written and talked about those orders

768

00:39:47,760 --> 00:39:47,140

ultimately well what walk me through a

769

00:39:49,320 --> 00:39:47,770

little bit

770

00:39:50,730 --> 00:39:49,330

they weren't able to get ahold of the

771

00:39:53,850 --> 00:39:50,740

president so they were wanting to get

772

00:39:56,970 --> 00:39:53,860

the vice president to order that it's

773

00:39:58,740 --> 00:39:56,980

okay to shoot ultimately I think the

774

00:40:00,180 --> 00:39:58,750

president does approve it then there's

775

00:40:03,150 --> 00:40:00,190

some controversy as to whether that

776
00:40:05,640 --> 00:40:03,160
order was ever actually given because I

777
00:40:09,450 --> 00:40:05,650
know there was some fear that they might

778
00:40:10,710 --> 00:40:09,460
accidentally shoot down a plane that

779
00:40:12,840 --> 00:40:10,720
they thought had been hijacked when it

780
00:40:15,420 --> 00:40:12,850
was not so kind of walk us through that

781
00:40:17,970 --> 00:40:15,430
timeline yeah so there's sort of a

782
00:40:23,160 --> 00:40:17,980
couple of different points of confusion

783
00:40:26,460 --> 00:40:23,170
around this one is when the first order

784
00:40:30,150 --> 00:40:26,470
to shoot down hijacked airliners comes

785
00:40:34,020 --> 00:40:30,160
in and whether Vice President Cheney

786
00:40:39,870 --> 00:40:34,030
gives the order himself or whether he

787
00:40:42,390 --> 00:40:39,880
had spoken to President Bush or he

788
00:40:43,920 --> 00:40:42,400

passed along the order at the White

789

00:40:46,620 --> 00:40:43,930

House and by the way there's an

790

00:40:50,810 --> 00:40:46,630

interesting issue even before you get to

791

00:40:54,840 --> 00:40:50,820

that which is who can give such an order

792

00:40:56,580 --> 00:40:54,850

at some point a decision I mean I assume

793

00:40:59,220 --> 00:40:56,590

this isn't written anywhere or maybe it

794

00:41:00,960 --> 00:40:59,230

is protocol for this I guess that would

795

00:41:02,970 --> 00:41:00,970

be a question is there protocol for who

796

00:41:04,620 --> 00:41:02,980

makes that decision you know is it

797

00:41:07,080 --> 00:41:04,630

necessarily have to come from the

798

00:41:12,810 --> 00:41:07,090

commander-in-chief or why is a general

799

00:41:17,520 --> 00:41:12,820

not sufficient yeah now there are much

800

00:41:19,980 --> 00:41:17,530

more finely tuned but on 9/11 no one

801
00:41:27,420 --> 00:41:19,990
wanted to be the person making that

802
00:41:30,780 --> 00:41:27,430
decision and so what you see that

803
00:41:33,750 --> 00:41:30,790
morning is sort of a series of confusing

804
00:41:37,650 --> 00:41:33,760
remarks or confusing conversations that

805
00:41:42,330 --> 00:41:37,660
take place mostly between 10:00 12:00

806
00:41:46,260 --> 00:41:42,340
a.m. and 1018 a.m. where Vice President

807
00:41:48,420 --> 00:41:46,270
Cheney appears to give the order to the

808
00:41:56,250 --> 00:41:48,430
Pentagon to shoot down further hijacked

809
00:42:01,450 --> 00:41:56,260
airliners and and what to the best of

810
00:42:04,000 --> 00:42:01,460
the recollection of the 9/11 Commission

811
00:42:08,440 --> 00:42:04,010
he and President Bush don't actually

812
00:42:10,900 --> 00:42:08,450
speak until closer and 20 and so it does

813
00:42:13,839 --> 00:42:10,910

seem like Vice President Cheney gave

814

00:42:16,359 --> 00:42:13,849

that first order unilaterally without

815

00:42:17,800 --> 00:42:16,369

speaking to the president now when he

816

00:42:21,970 --> 00:42:17,810

and the President did speech the

817

00:42:23,470 --> 00:42:21,980

president clearly okayed that order so

818

00:42:26,050 --> 00:42:23,480

Vice President Cheney has long

819

00:42:27,640 --> 00:42:26,060

maintained that he spoke to the

820

00:42:30,790 --> 00:42:27,650

president and then passed along the

821

00:42:32,260 --> 00:42:30,800

order having gone but that is not backed

822

00:42:34,540 --> 00:42:32,270

up by the evidence that we have

823

00:42:38,170 --> 00:42:34,550

available to us now of course it sort of

824

00:42:40,089 --> 00:42:38,180

ends up being somewhat moot because what

825

00:42:44,280 --> 00:42:40,099

we now understand which they did not

826

00:42:47,680 --> 00:42:44,290

understand at the time was that fully

827

00:42:51,430 --> 00:42:47,690

the last plane played 9390 Airlines

828

00:42:54,819 --> 00:42:51,440

flight 93 had crashed at 10:03 that

829

00:42:56,859 --> 00:42:54,829

morning there were no further hijacked

830

00:43:00,370 --> 00:42:56,869

airliners in the air that morning and

831

00:43:02,290 --> 00:43:00,380

that clarifies a conspiracy point of the

832

00:43:06,250 --> 00:43:02,300

people who believe that that plane was

833

00:43:09,160 --> 00:43:06,260

shot down that the orders that it was

834

00:43:10,720 --> 00:43:09,170

approved to shoot down a plane did not

835

00:43:17,500 --> 00:43:10,730

come until that plane had already

836

00:43:19,890 --> 00:43:17,510

crashed no fighter jets anywhere I

837

00:43:22,720 --> 00:43:19,900

didn't play 93 by the time it went down

838

00:43:29,550 --> 00:43:22,730

and that actually Feeney's order does

839

00:43:33,069 --> 00:43:29,560

get transmitted out to fighter jets to

840

00:43:36,390 --> 00:43:33,079

Andrews Air Force Base piloted by

841

00:43:40,690 --> 00:43:36,400

Heather Lucky Penny and Mark sass Ville

842

00:43:42,370 --> 00:43:40,700

of the DC Air National Guard and those

843

00:43:45,550 --> 00:43:42,380

planes aren't actually even airborne

844

00:43:46,990 --> 00:43:45,560

until about 10:30 it is a really really

845

00:43:48,970 --> 00:43:47,000

incredible order though when you really

846

00:43:51,339 --> 00:43:48,980

just stop and think about and just

847

00:43:55,680 --> 00:43:51,349

demonstrates how crazy that day was that

848

00:44:00,460 --> 00:43:55,690

the US military was authorized to kill

849

00:44:03,010 --> 00:44:00,470

Americans yes and and there was actually

850

00:44:06,430 --> 00:44:03,020

very little hesitancy on the part of

851
00:44:09,790 --> 00:44:06,440
either President Bush or Vice President

852
00:44:11,680 --> 00:44:09,800
Cheney to give that order thinking was

853
00:44:14,319 --> 00:44:11,690
you know we have to take flies in the

854
00:44:17,169 --> 00:44:14,329
sky and/or save lives on

855
00:44:22,329 --> 00:44:17,179
but that over the course of that morning

856
00:44:25,329 --> 00:44:22,339
what you saw was sort of people who were

857
00:44:26,380 --> 00:44:25,339
with President Bush aboard Air Force One

858
00:44:28,630 --> 00:44:26,390
when he was having that conversation

859
00:44:31,599 --> 00:44:28,640
with Dick Cheney you know he hangs up

860
00:44:33,579 --> 00:44:31,609
that telephone and you know remember t

861
00:44:36,939 --> 00:44:33,589
was a National Guard pilot himself and

862
00:44:39,489 --> 00:44:36,949
so he turned to his aides around him and

863
00:44:42,459 --> 00:44:39,499

said you know III was a pilot I I can't

864

00:44:45,749 --> 00:44:42,469

imagine getting the order and I just II

865

00:44:50,469 --> 00:44:45,759

what that tells me is that at that time

866

00:44:52,959 --> 00:44:50,479

there was no technology such that we

867

00:44:56,439 --> 00:44:52,969

could take over the controls of those

868

00:45:08,370 --> 00:44:56,449

planes that the only option was to shoot

869

00:45:10,179 --> 00:45:08,380

him down yeah it would be I mean what

870

00:45:13,329 --> 00:45:10,189

technologically it's probably possible

871

00:45:14,529 --> 00:45:13,339

whether it's been implemented right it

872

00:45:18,160 --> 00:45:14,539

certainly said you know we have drone

873

00:45:19,749 --> 00:45:18,170

planes so these would be drone Jets but

874

00:45:23,949 --> 00:45:19,759

it would seem to me I'm just totally

875

00:45:25,719 --> 00:45:23,959

kind of spitballing here but that

876

00:45:28,419 --> 00:45:25,729

theoretically you could have these

877

00:45:30,459 --> 00:45:28,429

planes outfitted in a way that the

878

00:45:33,890 --> 00:45:30,469

controls could be taken over in some

879

00:45:35,099 --> 00:45:33,900

type of an emergency situation like this

880

00:45:39,160 --> 00:45:35,109

[Music]

881

00:45:42,489 --> 00:45:39,170

possible you know I think one of the

882

00:45:45,429 --> 00:45:42,499

reasons that has not been happened

883

00:45:47,699 --> 00:45:45,439

already is you know the obvious cyber

884

00:45:50,679 --> 00:45:47,709

vulnerabilities that that would open up

885

00:45:54,449 --> 00:45:50,689

you know that you know a various actors

886

00:45:57,729 --> 00:45:54,459

but also then attempt to game airplane

887

00:45:59,679 --> 00:45:57,739

why is it that Cheney was not able to

888

00:46:04,929 --> 00:45:59,689

888 speak to Bush for such such an extended

889

00:46:07,449 --> 00:46:04,939

period well so this was this was a major

890

00:46:09,160 --> 00:46:07,459

part of the story of 9/11 these the

891

00:46:11,499 --> 00:46:09,170

technological limitations that the

892

00:46:15,279 --> 00:46:11,509

government was operating on over the

893

00:46:18,039 --> 00:46:15,289

course of the bat day you know this was

894

00:46:19,809 --> 00:46:18,049

2001 it sort of feels like modern times

895

00:46:20,499 --> 00:46:19,819

but technologically it was still the

896

00:46:26,529 --> 00:46:20,509

Stone Age

897

00:46:28,240 --> 00:46:26,539

you know Air Force one did not have did

898

00:46:29,980 --> 00:46:28,250

not have satellite hello

899

00:46:33,670 --> 00:46:29,990

capabilities at that point it was still

900

00:46:36,370 --> 00:46:33,680

primarily relying on effectively rabbit

901
00:46:43,630 --> 00:46:36,380
ear TV antennas to pick up TV channels

902
00:46:47,770 --> 00:46:43,640
at the time and then during that 10 n to

903
00:46:55,450 --> 00:46:47,780
10 20 window they were just out of touch

904
00:46:58,600 --> 00:46:55,460
with the land now things that we've

905
00:47:03,640 --> 00:46:58,610
implemented since 9/11 to the bolster

906
00:47:05,080 --> 00:47:03,650
security obviously sees is when they're

907
00:47:09,040 --> 00:47:05,090
at the airport and what you had now have

908
00:47:11,350 --> 00:47:09,050
to go through at the airport first let's

909
00:47:13,510 --> 00:47:11,360
touch on that because like you said it

910
00:47:17,320 --> 00:47:13,520
was recent times but it was a long ago

911
00:47:19,930 --> 00:47:17,330
times what was in place as far as

912
00:47:22,560 --> 00:47:19,940
airport security to get on a plane pre

913
00:47:26,260 --> 00:47:22,570

9/11 and what was implemented post 9/11

914

00:47:27,820 --> 00:47:26,270

so before 9/11 remember it was mostly

915

00:47:29,500 --> 00:47:27,830

private security these were not

916

00:47:33,790 --> 00:47:29,510

government employees these were not

917

00:47:35,110 --> 00:47:33,800

government guards and the range of what

918

00:47:38,710 --> 00:47:35,120

you could bring on board was much

919

00:47:43,760 --> 00:47:38,720

lighter I mean small knives were in fact

920

00:47:45,330 --> 00:47:43,770

exclusively allowed on planes and the

921

00:47:48,760 --> 00:47:45,340

[Music]

922

00:47:50,170 --> 00:47:48,770

obviously that changed after 9/11 the

923

00:47:54,550 --> 00:47:50,180

Transportation Security Administration

924

00:47:56,710 --> 00:47:54,560

was created to sort of federalized

925

00:47:59,290 --> 00:47:56,720

airport security and transportation

926

00:48:03,190 --> 00:47:59,300

security across the country and then

927

00:48:08,260 --> 00:48:03,200

after the 2004 al-qaida plot against the

928

00:48:11,260 --> 00:48:08,270

London planes when liquids were banned

929

00:48:12,640 --> 00:48:11,270

from coming on fourthly and again that's

930

00:48:15,790 --> 00:48:12,650

sort of one of those things we mostly

931

00:48:18,130 --> 00:48:15,800

take for granted today but you know I

932

00:48:22,780 --> 00:48:18,140

remember flying when I was in college

933

00:48:29,880 --> 00:48:22,790

and people bringing you know 20 packs of

934

00:48:33,810 --> 00:48:29,890

beer on the plane in their area yeah and

935

00:48:37,630 --> 00:48:33,820

sorry I lost my train of thought on Oh

936

00:48:41,320 --> 00:48:37,640

an observation that I have is that the

937

00:48:44,320 --> 00:48:41,330

cabin for the

938

00:48:47,830 --> 00:48:44,330

Pitts for the pilots is still not

939

00:48:50,850 --> 00:48:47,840

particularly secure the old roll the

940

00:48:53,500 --> 00:48:50,860

drink cart in front of the cockpit trick

941

00:48:57,540 --> 00:48:53,510

doesn't seem to be like air tight

942

00:49:01,060 --> 00:48:57,550

security and if you could somehow

943

00:49:04,480 --> 00:49:01,070

genuinely secure that cockpit then a lot

944

00:49:07,540 --> 00:49:04,490

of the other security becomes far less

945

00:49:10,810 --> 00:49:07,550

important so it just surprises me that

946

00:49:13,090 --> 00:49:10,820

we don't keep that cockpit absolutely

947

00:49:14,740 --> 00:49:13,100

buttoned down to 100% locked perhaps

948

00:49:16,660 --> 00:49:14,750

even now this would take a somewhat of a

949

00:49:19,570 --> 00:49:16,670

redesign of planes but have that have

950

00:49:21,000 --> 00:49:19,580

the pilots enter the cockpit not through

951
00:49:23,500 --> 00:49:21,010
the main cabin they have their own

952
00:49:25,150 --> 00:49:23,510
external door that gets them into the

953
00:49:26,260 --> 00:49:25,160
cockpit and then that is locked and

954
00:49:29,500 --> 00:49:26,270
that's it

955
00:49:31,360 --> 00:49:29,510
they're often and they're not coming

956
00:49:41,320 --> 00:49:31,370
back there is no way to get into the

957
00:49:44,470 --> 00:49:41,330
cockpit from the cabin you know you know

958
00:49:47,920 --> 00:49:44,480
almost 19 years later and we've never

959
00:49:51,010 --> 00:49:47,930
seen a plot similar like this and that

960
00:49:55,090 --> 00:49:51,020
partly because of the changes made with

961
00:49:58,840 --> 00:49:55,100
ESA and armored cockpit doors such that

962
00:50:00,760 --> 00:49:58,850
they have been upgraded already but then

963
00:50:03,730 --> 00:50:00,770

it's also you know look at United plate

964

00:50:07,600 --> 00:50:03,740

93 which is even - by the end of that

965

00:50:11,850 --> 00:50:07,610

morning you know passengers had reacted

966

00:50:17,050 --> 00:50:11,860

in the crew had reacted in real-time to

967

00:50:19,000 --> 00:50:17,060

interdict and disrupt the of the

968

00:50:21,910 --> 00:50:19,010

hijackers suits over United flight 93

969

00:50:23,890 --> 00:50:21,920

and so you know I think one of the

970

00:50:26,710 --> 00:50:23,900

reasons you have not seen al-qaeda sort

971

00:50:30,460 --> 00:50:26,720

of pursued a lot further is the

972

00:50:34,030 --> 00:50:30,470

recognition that you know any attempt to

973

00:50:36,760 --> 00:50:34,040

take over a plane today would be not met

974

00:50:39,190 --> 00:50:36,770

with docile passengers and crew yeah

975

00:50:41,470 --> 00:50:39,200

well I really really hate saying this

976

00:50:45,100 --> 00:50:41,480

but I I you know it concerns me a little

977

00:50:46,660 --> 00:50:45,110

bit because it seems like you know like

978

00:50:48,670 --> 00:50:46,670

I said we overreacted then we under

979

00:50:50,260 --> 00:50:48,680

reacted it's a condom the constant

980

00:50:52,450 --> 00:50:50,270

pendulum going back and forth but I

981

00:50:55,300 --> 00:50:52,460

think there's been lots of examples of

982

00:50:58,360 --> 00:50:55,310

things when they've tested current

983

00:51:00,130 --> 00:50:58,370

ese security of it not being as good as

984

00:51:03,610 --> 00:51:00,140

we'd hope input so we all stand in these

985

00:51:05,050 --> 00:51:03,620

long annoying lines but turns out there

986

00:51:07,180 --> 00:51:05,060

are a number of things that can be snuck

987

00:51:10,000 --> 00:51:07,190

through there it isn't hard to

988

00:51:12,730 --> 00:51:10,010

manufacture a weapon right they

989

00:51:15,700 --> 00:51:12,740

manufactured them right on the plane on

990

00:51:19,600 --> 00:51:15,710

that United 93 and when that cockpit

991

00:51:22,210 --> 00:51:19,610

door is open and all it is is a female

992

00:51:25,660 --> 00:51:22,220

flight attendants standing in front of a

993

00:51:27,550 --> 00:51:25,670

juice cart that you know someone could

994

00:51:29,590 --> 00:51:27,560

jump into that situation and hop in that

995

00:51:40,020 --> 00:51:29,600

cockpit pretty easily close and lock the

996

00:51:43,800 --> 00:51:40,030

door and they're now in control and

997

00:51:47,230 --> 00:51:43,810

there are a lot of sort of prior to that

998

00:51:48,640 --> 00:51:47,240

that have been implemented through the

999

00:51:52,630 --> 00:51:48,650

intelligence and law enforcement means

1000

00:51:54,520 --> 00:51:52,640

that would they hope interdiction

1001
00:51:58,930 --> 00:51:54,530
disrupt a plot like that sort of or

1002
00:52:01,900 --> 00:51:58,940
upstream as well you know the ability to

1003
00:52:06,730 --> 00:52:01,910
carry out a highly coordinated attack in

1004
00:52:11,290 --> 00:52:06,740
the way that al-qaeda did the 9/11 plot

1005
00:52:14,230 --> 00:52:11,300
a centrally planned and executed was you

1006
00:52:17,560 --> 00:52:14,240
know for much better or to the

1007
00:52:19,810 --> 00:52:17,570
indicators of a lot like that today what

1008
00:52:22,420 --> 00:52:19,820
do you know about the I think they call

1009
00:52:23,710 --> 00:52:22,430
them US air marshals that fly on the

1010
00:52:26,530 --> 00:52:23,720
planes that was something else that was

1011
00:52:28,000 --> 00:52:26,540
implemented is that still going on and

1012
00:52:29,980 --> 00:52:28,010
do we know to what extent what

1013
00:52:35,620 --> 00:52:29,990

percentage of planes have some type of a

1014

00:52:38,860 --> 00:52:35,630

undercover US Marshal on it this was a

1015

00:52:41,170 --> 00:52:38,870

long-standing operation the the air

1016

00:52:43,210 --> 00:52:41,180

marshals have long you know going back

1017

00:52:48,370 --> 00:52:43,220

into the nineteen seventies there were

1018

00:52:51,250 --> 00:52:48,380

very small number left on 9/11 and it

1019

00:52:59,250 --> 00:52:51,260

was ramped up very quickly after 9/11

1020

00:53:03,120 --> 00:52:59,260

and has sort of largely been you know

1021

00:53:05,590 --> 00:53:03,130

arguably ineffective you know it the the

1022

00:53:08,930 --> 00:53:05,600

percentage of flights that are covered

1023

00:53:13,310 --> 00:53:08,940

by air marshals remains very low

1024

00:53:17,080 --> 00:53:13,320

the air marshals have never furiously

1025

00:53:20,600 --> 00:53:17,090

interdicted a plot as it was unfolding

1026
00:53:23,540 --> 00:53:20,610
but you know it's hard to know sort of

1027
00:53:26,030 --> 00:53:23,550
what deterrent effect it backers of the

1028
00:53:30,680 --> 00:53:26,040
program would tell you you know what the

1029
00:53:32,390 --> 00:53:30,690
current activity but if you don't know

1030
00:53:33,609 --> 00:53:32,400
about a cross-country flight LA to New

1031
00:53:38,540 --> 00:53:33,619
York

1032
00:53:43,750 --> 00:53:38,550
50% chance there's one on there the

1033
00:53:46,940 --> 00:53:43,760
technical numbers of the air marshals is

1034
00:53:49,940 --> 00:53:46,950
classified the technical percentage of

1035
00:53:53,080 --> 00:53:49,950
plates that is covered is classified but

1036
00:53:58,190 --> 00:53:53,090
I would guess that on an average day

1037
00:53:59,990 --> 00:53:58,200
absence any other intelligence the

1038
00:54:05,330 --> 00:54:00,000

chances of encountering an arrow marks

1039

00:54:08,810 --> 00:54:05,340

are effectively zero what had been laden

1040

00:54:16,000 --> 00:54:08,820

planned as an encore to this as far as

1041

00:54:18,530 --> 00:54:16,010

we know I don't know might have been

1042

00:54:20,800 --> 00:54:18,540

what we do know is that they were sort

1043

00:54:33,800 --> 00:54:20,810

of another major plot in the fall of

1044

00:54:35,720 --> 00:54:33,810

2000 or the planes in London we're all

1045

00:54:38,420 --> 00:54:35,730

kind of sort of hopes down something

1046

00:54:41,270 --> 00:54:38,430

like a dozen transatlantic airliners all

1047

00:54:44,240 --> 00:54:41,280

at once Wow I've forgotten that story

1048

00:54:53,200 --> 00:54:44,250

how were they going to down them so that

1049

00:55:01,760 --> 00:54:57,099

we're going to bring on harmless

1050

00:55:05,270 --> 00:55:01,770

harmless liquid that when mixed together

1051
00:55:06,590 --> 00:55:05,280
aboard the plane formed and exploded in

1052
00:55:08,000 --> 00:55:06,600
considering the timing of what's going

1053
00:55:11,000 --> 00:55:08,010
on in Afghanistan right now it's a good

1054
00:55:14,870 --> 00:55:11,010
very good time to ask this question do

1055
00:55:18,080 --> 00:55:14,880
you buy into the theory that bin Laden's

1056
00:55:21,950 --> 00:55:18,090
objective in that terrorist attack on

1057
00:55:26,390 --> 00:55:21,960
9/11 was to draw the u.s. into a war

1058
00:55:30,140 --> 00:55:26,400
Afghanistan so it's very clear that you

1059
00:55:32,780 --> 00:55:30,150
know bin Laden's had been through the

1060
00:55:35,329 --> 00:55:32,790
1990s sort of raising the stakes of his

1061
00:55:37,180 --> 00:55:35,339
attacks trying to get the u.s. to pay

1062
00:55:39,680 --> 00:55:37,190
attention and trying to provoke

1063
00:55:45,770 --> 00:55:39,690

precisely the type of response that he

1064

00:55:49,070 --> 00:55:45,780

ended up after 9/11 so to that extent we

1065

00:55:51,050 --> 00:55:49,080

played right into his hands we responded

1066

00:55:54,500 --> 00:55:51,060

in precisely the way that he anticipates

1067

00:55:56,210 --> 00:55:54,510

and and he hearkened back to the war

1068

00:55:58,609 --> 00:55:56,220

with the Soviets and the Soviets were

1069

00:56:01,760 --> 00:55:58,619

ultimately defeated and that was their

1070

00:56:04,490 --> 00:56:01,770

primary enemy at that time now their

1071

00:56:07,820 --> 00:56:04,500

primary enemy had become the u.s. for a

1072

00:56:09,800 --> 00:56:07,830

variety of reasons I guess but so the

1073

00:56:11,410 --> 00:56:09,810

idea was to now have some great victory

1074

00:56:19,579 --> 00:56:11,420

in Afghanistan against the United States

1075

00:56:22,760 --> 00:56:19,589

well it was to provoke the United States

1076

00:56:29,020 --> 00:56:22,770

into a war against Islam and a war

1077

00:56:32,150 --> 00:56:29,030

against Muslim and bush the u.s.

1078

00:56:35,630 --> 00:56:32,160

remember sort of his original complaint

1079

00:56:44,050 --> 00:56:35,640

was the basing of US soldiers in the

1080

00:56:47,829 --> 00:56:44,060

Holy Land in Saudi Arabia around so

1081

00:56:50,900 --> 00:56:47,839

hindsight being 20/20

1082

00:56:52,460 --> 00:56:50,910

what should the us's reaction have been

1083

00:56:54,020 --> 00:56:52,470

in the Middle East what action should we

1084

00:56:58,690 --> 00:56:54,030

take em I mean clearly you can't let al

1085

00:57:07,630 --> 00:56:58,700

Qaeda continue as it was after 9/11 so

1086

00:57:12,980 --> 00:57:11,630

you know I think the clearest is lying

1087

00:57:16,490 --> 00:57:12,990

for playing the hindsight is

1088

00:57:19,520 --> 00:57:16,500

twenty-twenty game I think the clearest

1089

00:57:24,050 --> 00:57:19,530

way have been to have taken bin Laden

1090

00:57:26,599 --> 00:57:24,060

more seriously prior to 9/11 and to have

1091

00:57:29,990 --> 00:57:26,609

responded more forcefully to for

1092

00:57:34,080 --> 00:57:30,000

instance um you know the the Kenya and

1093

00:57:36,630 --> 00:57:34,090

Tanzania embassy bombings in 1998 where

1094

00:57:39,840 --> 00:57:36,640

that sort of unfolded in the midst of

1095

00:57:44,280 --> 00:57:39,850

the Clinton impeachment debacle with

1096

00:57:48,150 --> 00:57:44,290

Monica Lewinsky and Clinton fired off

1097

00:57:50,310 --> 00:57:48,160

cruise missiles aimed at targeting bin

1098

00:57:53,220 --> 00:57:50,320

Laden and was criticized as sort of a

1099

00:57:54,930 --> 00:57:53,230

wag the dog phenomenon of attempting to

1100

00:57:58,470 --> 00:57:54,940

distract from his impeachment problem

1101

00:58:03,300 --> 00:57:58,480

but here's kind of a crazy thought but

1102

00:58:06,330 --> 00:58:03,310

by going to Afghanistan didn't that have

1103

00:58:09,210 --> 00:58:06,340

the effect of reducing the terror threat

1104

00:58:13,050 --> 00:58:09,220

in the u.s. in two ways one obviously it

1105

00:58:16,590 --> 00:58:13,060

distracted al-qaeda but two we did what

1106

00:58:17,460 --> 00:58:16,600

about what bin Laden sought out to

1107

00:58:20,130 --> 00:58:17,470

achieve

1108

00:58:21,660 --> 00:58:20,140

drag the u.s. into a war in the Middle

1109

00:58:23,310 --> 00:58:21,670

East so he had already served his

1110

00:58:28,710 --> 00:58:23,320

purpose he didn't need new terrorist

1111

00:58:34,290 --> 00:58:28,720

acts no you remain ambitious about

1112

00:58:40,350 --> 00:58:34,300

carrying on further attacks you know you

1113

00:58:44,120 --> 00:58:40,360

know the last one that we know 2009-2010

1114

00:58:47,070 --> 00:58:44,130

which exact year with Najibullah Zazi x'

1115

00:58:50,040 --> 00:58:47,080

attempt to bomb the New York City subway

1116

00:58:52,050 --> 00:58:50,050

and so he was you know long after 9/11

1117

00:58:55,200 --> 00:58:52,060

bin Laden was still quite focused on

1118

00:58:56,910 --> 00:58:55,210

further attacks last thing was touched

1119

00:58:59,340 --> 00:58:56,920

on a little bit is just that the Saudi

1120

00:59:02,910 --> 00:58:59,350

connection first of all what can you

1121

00:59:05,370 --> 00:59:02,920

tell us about the story that Saudis that

1122

00:59:08,190 --> 00:59:05,380

were friends of the Bush's etc were able

1123

00:59:11,280 --> 00:59:08,200

to leave the country very bin Laden's in

1124

00:59:14,480 --> 00:59:11,290

fact bin Laden's and/or Saudis left the

1125

00:59:17,610 --> 00:59:14,490

u.s. like the day after the attack

1126

00:59:20,550 --> 00:59:17,620

exactly that happened you know they were

1127

00:59:24,480 --> 00:59:20,560

there were bin Laden family members

1128

00:59:26,910 --> 00:59:24,490

inside the United States were ushered

1129

00:59:29,040 --> 00:59:26,920

out of the United States aboard private

1130

00:59:31,350 --> 00:59:29,050

aircraft you know in the hours and days

1131

00:59:38,719 --> 00:59:31,360

after 9/11 now is that because they

1132

00:59:48,630 --> 00:59:45,630

beyond be like I don't actually know huh

1133

00:59:51,239 --> 00:59:48,640

and aren't I correct that just within

1134

00:59:55,170 --> 00:59:51,249

the last year there's been more more

1135

00:59:57,059 --> 00:59:55,180

Saudis deported that we believe may have

1136

01:00:07,019 --> 00:59:57,069

been terrorists that were in flight

1137

01:00:12,719 --> 01:00:07,029

schools well like Air Force Base by a

1138

01:00:16,380 --> 01:00:12,729

Saudi plane student that led to the

1139

01:00:18,089 --> 01:00:16,390

other Saudis who were members of the

1140

01:00:23,370 --> 01:00:18,099

military in training in the United

1141

01:00:25,680 --> 01:00:23,380

States being so I hate to chuckle at

1142

01:00:29,329 --> 01:00:25,690

that but you you have to like be

1143

01:00:32,249 --> 01:00:29,339

bewildered that after all these Saudis

1144

01:00:36,749 --> 01:00:32,259

took flight classes in the US and became

1145

01:00:38,819 --> 01:00:36,759

hijackers and created the worst terror

1146

01:00:41,039 --> 01:00:38,829

event in in US history

1147

01:00:46,589 --> 01:00:41,049

that we still have Saudis in the u.s.

1148

01:00:51,870 --> 01:00:46,599

learning how to fly planes well the the

1149

01:00:58,200 --> 01:00:51,880

relationship and our ally relationship

1150

01:01:01,829 --> 01:00:58,210

with Arabia is and there's no question

1151

01:01:05,489 --> 01:01:01,839

that the Saudis are well aware of this

1152

01:01:08,519 --> 01:01:05,499

terror element in their country have not

1153

01:01:11,700 --> 01:01:08,529

been able to curtail it and in fact in

1154

01:01:16,440 --> 01:01:11,710

order to keep them at bay and to stay in

1155

01:01:19,789 --> 01:01:16,450

power it's believed that they allow it

1156

01:01:25,829 --> 01:01:19,799

to continue if not actually funded

1157

01:01:29,729 --> 01:01:25,839

correct and like you said complicated

1158

01:01:31,769 --> 01:01:29,739

relationship and I think you know again

1159

01:01:33,390 --> 01:01:31,779

when you go back to thinking about a new

1160

01:01:35,999 --> 01:01:33,400

generation of Americans they learned

1161

01:01:37,680 --> 01:01:36,009

about 9/11 you know I think there are a

1162

01:01:40,410 --> 01:01:37,690

lot of people who's now sort of hear the