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10/27/03 Interview of Lt. (former Sgt) Powell

- Jeremy Powell - 2nd Lt. NEADS.
- Comm'n examines nation's ~~Imm~~ Immediate Response to 9-11 attacks from the Top (WH) down to the streets of Wash D.C. and N.Y.C (Firefighters, NYPD, etc).
- the 9-11 Report
  A.) Definitive account of events of 9-11 (Get the facts right)
  B.) Recommendations for improvement of security based on lessons learned.

- He joined Georgia ANG in June 1991. (117th F.W)
- 9/95 transferred to NEADS ANG Staff Sgt. E-5.
- June 2002 2nd Lt. promotion
- 9/95 Senior Airman - tracking technician - (Surveillance)

- You hit up any track that has not been hit up.

- Hit Up = You initiate a pending track or aircraft over water that has not been identified.

- Interface Control Coordinator.
  - He sends radar pictures from NEADS TO CONR, Navy, etc.

- Tracking Technician reports TO ASO

- ICC reports TO ASO

- 1996 - He became a Weapons Director Technician → Responsible for Coordinating W/FAA among other things.

- He coordinated Control of Active/Exercise Air Defense missions.

- He is the ~~the~~ link B/W F.A.A

and the Weapons Director.

(X) — WDT (Weapons Director Technician)
— Training for WDT position →
— Academic training (reading books)
— Table top training.
— Training on real equipment under eye of a Supervisor.

— Training Scenarios — include Psych exercises.

— Fertile Rice = exercise scenario in Oct. 2003.

— Psych exercises — (Pre 9-11)
— Constantly training to do your job that includes psych training.

— They have checklists that they use.

— Every 17 months, he has to re-qualify for each position he is qualified to operate.

— Sr. Director Technician → person

in charge of Weapons Director Technicians ("WD Techs").

— SDT = Supervisor.

* — On 9/11/01 — Powell sat in SDT position.

— Pre 9-11 NEADS mission: Active Defense of Airspace over northeast U.S.

(A) — He was WDT during Atlantic City when 2 planes crashed over Ocean.

(B) — WDT during the Duluth Aircraft Crash.

— Pre 9-11 — NEADS role in handling hijacks.

— He trained for hijacks but was never involved in a real one prior to 9-11.

He would refer to Checklist — 1) Scramble the

fighters.

- (Today - there is a Scramble X-list for each fighter base).

- (On 9/11/01 → there was a General Scramble X-list).

- Scramble X-list ~~provides~~ is separate from Hijack X-list and it tells you to do things to get planes launched.

- ~~The~~ Senior Director decides what heading to give planes.

- Used on training and the quickest way to intercept the target A/C.

- The Senior Director gets the Scramble #eading from the MCC. (?).

- The Senior Director technician calls the ANG base and relays Scramble Order to the fighter base, FAA, etc.

- The Scramble order is written on one of 3 cards and is usually erased for re-use.

Checklist.

- TCAS - Terminal Collision Avoidance System.

The military shuts off ("Strangles") its mode 3C before 40 nm so the target A/C can not detect military A/c coming.

- Checklist # 3 - A/c type, SOB, # of Crew members, etc.

The Weapons Tech. gets this from FAA.

- # (4) Ensure WI provides updated information to aircrews as available.

- # 5 mandatory Transmission Statement - at 30 nmiles - "(Call sign), when contact is made w/ target, keep behind A/c, maintain 5 nm distance, etc.

- #6 Ensure WD directs fighters to be co-speed and co-altitude w/ target A/C.

- #7 Upchannel all reported information to the MCC.

- #8 Perform addtl. actions as directed by MCC.

- End of hijack Checklist.

- Giant Killer is the navy - the navy does not own the Warning Areas.

- G.K. effects hand-offs to ne ADS just like the FAA

(*) - Pre 9-11 exercises → Simulated hijacking scenarios w/out FAA involvement. - hijacks originated inside and outside ~~FAA~~ U.S.

- WD tech. → responsibilities include maintaining contact w/ FAA.

— Senior WD > relays information from the WD Technicians to the Weapons ~~Fighter~~ Officer.

— Events of 9-11:
— Powell was in the middle of a military exercise on the "Sim" side.

— "Sim" side → he was simulating another ~~agt~~ agency.

— The "live" side → ~~the~~ person responds to real world ~~exercise~~ event in a military capacity.

— Crew Change Brief (occurs daily) at @ 8:00 A.M. – 8:20 A.M. roughly.

— Powell – first phone call he rec'd on 9/11 came from ZBW Joe Cooper. (Cooper reports AAL 11 hyack).

— When Powell talks to FAA Centers, he does not know what positions they are at.

— Powell tells [redacted] → Deskins that ZBW is on phone w/ a reported hijack.

— He tells Deskins b/c she is a qualified NCC and NCC Duty was not on the floor at the time. (Not aware where NCC ~~Duty~~ Duty was at the time).

— & major Deskins took over phone call from Powell/ZBW.

Weapons People ~~were~~ called in to ops floor.

— ZBW passed ~~last~~ last known lat./lon. to Deskins.

— Deskins wrote the lat./lon. down and a "Z" point popped up on the screen.

— Powell was told to Scramble fighters from OTIS.

* — Major Fox was the Senior Directo

who decided the headings, altitude for the Scramble Order.

- Fox decides the heading on his own w/out ~~of~~ superiors' approval.

- Powell is in Contact w/ Otis Tower, Cape Tracon, Giant Killer, ~~and~~ OTIS Command ~~Post~~ Post. and Boston Center (ZBW).

They authenticate prior to participation in Call and they all get the Scramble ~~Order~~ Order headings.

- There is no "standard" Scramble order heading b/c it depends on the situation.

- Powell then writes scramble information down on the slide so it appears on the projection screen.

- ~~Both~~ Powell, Sgt. Roundtree, Dooley and Watson stay ~~on~~ on phone with ZBW to get updated lat./lon

on AAL 11.

- After scramble order is given, he hears that WTC has been hit.
- They ask maintenance to set up T.V. in floor area.
- Then they all replay 2nd A/C striking WTC 2.
- Does not recall hearing Confirmation that AAL 11 and UAL 175 did Or did not hit WTC.
- Langley was put on battle status at 9:09 A.M.
- "Usually" the NCC tells you to alert ~~Scott~~ a base for Battle stations.
- NEADS (Powell) receives Calls from WADS, ZNY, ZBW.
- All Calls Powell receives are recorded.

- Powell says "we" scrambled Langley.

- He confirmed that Langley got 3 A/C airborne. (He asked for 2 A/C from Langley)

- Major Fox gave him the heading for Langley pilots.

- Langley on Battle Stations at 9:09 a.m. → not scrambled until 9:24 a.m. A/C everyone was looking at possible future targets that may be next to strike.

- Powell says Langley jets were scrambled to go directly to Wash. D.C.

- There were no targets identified out there that Langley was scrambled against!

- "We were going up there to protect a city" = Wash. D.C.

- After the Langley scramble →

= Delta 1989.

they find out about the A/C
over Pennsylvania and the A/C
coming towards the W. H.

— Powell then calls other bases
looking for more assets (A/C).

— Powell recalls hearing about
~~A/C~~ after the Langley
scramble

— He calls Selfridge and Toledo
trying to get A/C airborne.

— He had no role in helping FAA
to clear airspace on 9/11.

— CANR WADS, SEADS, and
"it seemed almost everybody" called
Powell on 9/11.

W/R/T — the Non-Scramble Bases:
Powell is asking them to send
~~A/C~~ A/C to track suspicious
targets. A/C may not have been
armed.

— After 4 A/C had crashed, major FAA passed orders for A/C to Cap major cities.

— NEADS → zoomed to (64) and looked for AAL 11 near JFK.

— NEADS → Powell does not believe anyone found a track on AAL 11.

— UAL 175 → Powell says there probably was "a track on it" on 9/11 up it was just up.

— Anything that comes up on NEADS scope from ADIZ area TO inland U.S. comes up as a friendly A/C and not an Unidentified Suspicious A/C.

— Powell says NEADS never found AAL 11 or UAL 175 on 9/11 based on info. FAA provided.

— Powell recalls that NEADS on its scope "lost up" AAL 77 on 9/11 and that he watched it go into Pentagon area.

— Lt. Powell does not know why Langley was scrambled to D.C. area. He does not make those decisions.

— Powell does not recall hearing that AA 11 was airborne and headed towards D.C.

— Post 9-11 changes:
1) Job is essentially the same.
2) Phone numbers are more accessible.
3) No meetings he can recall to discuss lessons learned from 9-11.
4) He was never formally interviewed by a military official for military purposes.
5) He gave media interviews and they told him to just tell his story.

— Someone was commissioned by First AF to write a book.

— We were given the authority to shoot down Civilian A/C at some point on 9/11.
↳ Capt. Herdrich would have passed that order to the pilots.

- He spoke TO BBC, gave magazine interviews, etc.

- He really didn't want to repeat the 9-11 story b/c he did not do anything special.

- Recommendations → He has no recommendations from his perspective.
- He thinks it went "pretty smooth."

- He feels he was properly trained TO do his job.

- Pre 9-11 → NEADS mostly looked out. → now they look in.

- Pre 9-11 → NEADS looked inward for drug interdiction, Payne Stewart, ~~etc.~~ NORDO flights, etc.

- Powell was not aware that ZNY Oceanic did not have radar scopes.

Jeremy
Lt Powell 10/27/03

Air Control Squad
Georgia NG Jun 91
Sep 95 to NEADS
Entered Weapons Div
2LT June 2002

Started as a Tracking Technician
& Surveillance
initiate pending traffic

Secondary interface ICC

Report to ASO
Air Surveillance
Officer

1996 WD/T

Weapons Director Controls
fighters
WD has to stay on freq
so WD/T is link to FAA

To qualify
- academic
- modules
- scope functions
- fighter configs
- know LOAs
  inst trainer
  - eval shop pass/fail

~~explore~~ Train Fertile Rice Scenarios
Prior 9/11
Requalify every 17 months

Card Filled Out

Teach in blah school fastest way to intercept

SD ~~Fills out~~

decides the parameters

↳

gets info MCC

Current " Langley Redskins

Distinguish WD & SD

1) Did he make both calls

2) ~~FO~~ -BC ~~WD~~ - SD

3) When did turn over occur OTIS

LANGLEY

MCC

SD

WD Does the job

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12 hr shifts

↳ he was working sim side

↳ other sides

right after crew change

↳ status of everything

First call of the day

from FAA ~ non specific

→ Decide to scramble Otis

→ Fox determined the coord

[redacted] OTIS, TOWER GK, BOSTON, CAPE TRACON, OTIS CP

unk of which planes hit which

Langley - he put them on battle stations

P2

How many lines → all recorded except STU III

Langley scrambled
he called to make sure airborne
Maj Fox

0909 – 0924 ? Not sure – everyone is just looking
Wash DC straight to

no notes for awhile

went to FAA Transcript

DRAA
Bearing
Range
Altitude
Aspect

Shoot down order Capt Hedrick

Recommendations
- Equipment } okay
- Training }

Rumors looking out
Always got along great w/ FAA

R3