

~~SECRET/RELCAN~~

R DOD 03002461

NORAD QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD

(U) The following are NORAD's responses to Questions for the Record from the *National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States* regarding the testimony of NORAD officials at the Commission's hearing held on 23 May 03:

Question 1. (U) What open lines were established between the FAA and any NORAD elements on 9/11/01, when were such open lines established, and how long were they in operation? Indicate whether NORAD is aware of the existence of any recordings or transcripts of conversations that occurred over such open lines, and provide copies of any such recordings or transcripts.

Answer 1. ~~(S)~~/RELCAN) At 0840 EDT on 11 Sep 01, the FAA contacted NORAD's North East Air Defense Sector (NEADS) by phone with information on the possible hijack of American Airlines Flight 11. The FAA continued to inform NEADS on activity regarding this and other possible hijacked aircraft on 11 Sep 01. The information was passed via separate calls, followed by the establishment of an open loop between the FAA and NEADS after 0924 EDT on 11 Sep 01 (the exact time is undocumented). NORAD is not aware of any recordings of these conversations.

Question 2. (U) What information did NORAD have about United Airlines Flight 77 prior to the official notification by the FAA of a hijacking reported to be at 9:24 am on 9/11/01?

Answer 2. (U) (Flight 77 was *American Airlines vice United*). NORAD had no information on American Airlines Flight 77 prior to this time. The first documented reference to this flight came at 0924 EDT on 11 Sept 01 when it was reported as a possible hijacked aircraft.

Question 3. (U) With respect to any orders authorizing the shoot down of commercial aircraft on 9/11/01, supplement your testimony with a description of the chain of command or chain of authorizations by which any such orders were passed and provide copies of any documents relating to such authority.

Answer 3. ~~(S)~~/RELCAN) At 1041 EDT on 11 Sept 01, the Vice President of the United States authorized the intercept and engagement of tracks of interest, if an aircraft was unresponsive. At the time, NORAD was at Peacetime Rules of Engagement (ROE), which meant the Commander, NORAD (CDRNORAD) retained the authority to order engagement of hostile forces and Region Commanders had emergency authority as defined in NORAD CONPLAN 3310-96 change 2 at Attachment 1. At 1046 EDT, CDRNORAD declared DEFCON 3 (Defense Readiness Condition 3). This changed NORAD's status to Transition ROE,

E.O. 13526, section 1.4(a)

Question 4. (U) When on 9/11/01 was the airspace over the D.C. area closed? Provide copies of any Andrews Air Force Base tower transmission logs relating to the closure of airspace in the D.C. area on 9/11/01.

Answer 4. ~~(S)~~/RELCAN) The airspace over the District of Columbia was closed by the FAA at 0945 EDT when the FAA ordered all aircraft over the United States to land at the nearest suitable airfield. The release authority for the transmission logs is the FAA, which is the agency that controls the Andrews AFB Tower.

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Question 5. (U) Describe the effect the closure of the airspace in the D.C. area on 9/11/01 had on NORAD's authority to shoot down commercial or other civilian aircraft, and provide any documents relating to such authority.

Answer 5. (S/RELCAN): The ordering of all aircraft to land did not affect NORAD's authority to engage commercial or other civilian aircraft, but it did assist NORAD in identifying suspect aircraft by minimizing the number of aircraft airborne. The authorization of "weapons free" at 1402 EDT (see Air Warning Center log at Attachment 2) against any aircraft inbound to the District of Columbia allowed fighters to engage any aircraft not positively identified as friendly.

Question 6. (U) What rules of engagement are currently in effect with regard to the shoot down of commercial or other civilian aircraft? Provide a copy of such rules as well as the names of the military officials who have delegated authority to authorize the shoot down of commercial or other civilian aircraft.

Answer 6. (U) Operation NOBLE EAGLE ROE Serial 006 is in effect. This document outlines shoot-down authority designations. Operation NOBLE EAGLE ROE Serial 006 and the names of the individuals with delegated authority are not provided due to operational security.

Question 7. (U) "What would be necessary, in NORAD's judgment, to bring the FAA radar system up to the standards required to defend U.S. airspace?"

Answer 7. (U) The North American Air Surveillance Council is identifying technology and concept studies to define the next generation air surveillance capability. There has been an outstanding level of interagency cooperation to develop a comprehensive North American Air Surveillance Plan that addresses NORAD's requirements to detect, identify, and classify all aircraft, to include smaller, low-altitude threats, within North American airspace.

Attachments:

1. CONPLAN 3310-96 change 2 Appendix 13 Rules of Engagement (S/RELCAN)
2. Air Warning Center Log 11 Sep 03 (S/RELCAN)