

COMMISSION SENSITIVE

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Event: Steve Marra, air traffic controller at Andrews AFB TRACON

Type: Interview

Date: March 11, 2004

Special Access Issues: None

Prepared By: Lisa Sullivan

Team: 8

Participants (non-Commission): Steve Marra

Participants (Commission): Lisa Sullivan, Miles Kara, and Kevin Shaeffer

Location: Andrews AFB ATC Tower

Steve Marra was interviewed by Commission staff on a previous trip to Andrews Tower. The purpose of the follow-up interview was to address the message played on the air traffic frequency warning pilots in Washington area they were entering Class B airspace and would be shot down.

On 9-11, Marra was working arrival radar at the Tower. Marra confirmed that he heard the message in question. He said he heard it broadcast over the ATIS (automated terminal information system) that morning. The system is used by controllers to update pilots on a regular basis of weather, restrictions, and any other information pertinent to their travel. Pilots know to tune in to the ATIS as they enter a new sector.

Dave Maddox (now at Potomac tracon) switched-off with Roosevelt Thompson as Supervisor of the tower that day. Marra was answering phones while the others were running the Tower.

He does not remember the Secret Service going up to the Tower or what time they came to the Base. He says he doesn't remember anything about that.

There was a security briefing at one point in the morning that he attended. They shut down the Base.

Karen Pontius from Washington HDQTs at FAA told Marra on the phone to scramble the F-16s. Marra knew Pontius from previous experience. He does not know what her title or position was on 9-11. She's held various jobs at FAA. She may have been in runway safety. According to Marra, the guy sitting in the desk in front of Pontius told her she

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needed to call Andrews. He doesn't recall the time of the call, although he thinks it was right after the Pentagon was hit. He remembers hearing that the EOB was bombed.

Marra called the 113th Air National Guard Command on the other side of the airfield, also located at Andrews. He thinks a Colonel answered his call. He told him that he got a call from FAA HDQTs to scramble the F-16s. He told the Command to "check with whomever he had to check with" to execute the order. According to Marra, the Command started loading them up with missiles.

Marra has a background in the Air Force. He used to load weapons on F-4s so he knew how long it would take the Command to ready the jets.

The message over the ATIS was spoken by Dave Maddox and it went out after 10 AM. Someone within FAA or AF told Maddox to make the transmission. It wasn't a scripted transmission. Maddox provided the words based on the situation and the information he had at the time. The announcement went out at 15 minute intervals.

His ATIS is picked up 20 minutes away from the tower; probably a 100 mile radius.

Steve Manna: ANDREWS AFB

- Traccon arrival radar on 9/11 WTC timeframe
- Dave Maddox was Tower Supervisor ("MX")
- ("ABTIS" now ATC @ Potomac Traccon)
- Roosevelt Manpower other Supervisor

- ATIS = Automated Terminal Info System
 ↳ 113.1 freq; taped msg; runs continuously but can be changed as necessary.

- Scramble:
 call from Karen Pontius from FAA HQ
 ↳ told Steve "to Scramble the F-16s" right after Pentagon hit.

- Steve called 113M commander (a Col.)
 told Col. about the call, needed to start loading up Alc w/ missiles while they (mil.) needed to V out the orders.

* A guy in front of Karen, sitting at his desk, he told her to call Steve b/c he knew she knew Steve well.
 ↳ "Base Ops" or "command post" ^{airport mgr.} Pres. with

Maddox made the transmissions on the ATIS. Someone, FAA or AF, told him to make it.

- not a scripted announcement

ATTS = ≈ 100 mi / 20 mm. out
all airports have it.

Wash. Tower.

- Didn't get an Guard channel.
ATTS only.

Stephen Marner | 3/11/04

1. Broadcasts

- Genesis
- scripted here SCATANA or other
- Frequency

2. Bully Chain-of- custody

3. Relationships to

~~SS~~ SS
 Approach
 "Senate"

→ Andrews
 → Wash

working AD at the ^{WTC} site
 when Pentagon hit

✓
 ✓
 Deane Madley
 Roosevelt Thompson

call for K. Pontus at FAA HQ
 told him to Scramble F16s
 after 9/11

guy at desk
 in front of her

called 113th Commander
 a Colonel

told him call for HQ
 to Scramble F16s

he was seen

Madley

8912 CP Runs the base

David Maddox

A.T.C.

Training

113-1

Range 100