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WORLD TRADE CENTER TASK FORCE INTERVIEW

ASSISTANT CHIEF HAROLD MEYERS

Interview Date: December 21, 2001

Transcribed by Elizabeth F. Santamaria

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MR. CANFY: Today is December 21, 2001. It is 10:00 a.m. and this is Battalion Chief Michael Canfy of the Fire Department of the City of New York. I am conducting an interview with Assistant Chief Harold Meyers, Bureau of Operations Citywide Tour Commander regarding the events of September 11, 2001.

Please state your name.

A. Assistant Chief Harold Meyers, Citywide Tour Commander.

Q. Chief, after the alarm, what did you see?

A. I didn't respond to the original alarm. It was my day off. I was in upstate New York when I became aware that the World Trade Center had been hit by an aircraft. I came down and I arrived at approximately 11:30 in the morning.

Q. So you arrived after both towers had collapsed; is that correct?

A. That's correct. Both towers had already collapsed by the time I arrived.

Q. Where did you park your car, your vehicle, when you arrived at the scene?

A. When I initially arrived, I parked my vehicle at Park Row and Broadway. At that point I

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got out and I did a survey on foot to do a size-up and correct any obvious safety matters that I saw. I got around as far as I could on foot down on Liberty Street and I proceeded back around on Church Street as far as I could go.

When I couldn't go any further, I worked my way back to my car. I then moved my car to Vesey and West Street. I parked my car at Vesey and West and I did another survey from that location. Again, taking any corrective action that had to be taken as I went along, giving any direction that I had to give as I did my survey.

At that point, when I finished that, I worked my way back up to the command post. The main command post at Chambers and West and reported in to the commanders.

Q. While you were doing a size-up, it appears that you basically had circled almost the entire site, did you observe any victims due to the tower collapse, either civilian or firefighters?

A. Yes. There were several bodies. Some were dead, some were not dead. There were people receiving emergency first-aid. There were people that were in the process of being moved in the

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ambulances and there were other bodies that were kinds of staged waiting for removal.

Q. When you reported into the command post, you reported to Chief Nigro; is that correct?

A. That's correct.

Q. Did he give you any specific assignment?

A. Yes, he did. Chief Nigro directed me to continue monitoring conditions at the site. Specifically to monitor number 7 World Trade Center. We were very concerned with the collapse potential there, and to do whatever I could do to ensure site safety in that no additional people became injured. Also, to do what I could while up at the site to organize some sort of command or control.

Q. Considering handy talkie communications, you could only comment obviously following the seconds collapse because before that you were not on the scene.

How would you characterize the handy-talkie communications while you were on the scene on September 11th?

A. There was heavy radio traffic, but the handy talk I seemed to be working okay.

Q. Did you operate on more than one channel?

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A. Yes, I did. I was operating sometimes on 1, sometimes on 2, and occasionally on 6.

Q. One last question. Do you have any knowledge about the status of any missing, injured or deceased members, where they might have been before the collapse?

A. No.

MR. CANFY: That concludes this interview. The time is now 1005. It is December 21, 2001. This interview was conducted by Battalion Chief Michael Canfy and the interview was of Assistant Chief Harold Meyers.