

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

(R)

Event: Greg Dukeman, Air Traffic Controller, Cleveland Center

Type of event: Interview

Date: October 2, 2003

Special Access Issues: None

Prepared by: Lisa Sullivan

Team Number: 8

Location: Cleveland Air Traffic Control Center

Participants - Non-Commission: Greg Dukeman, Air Traffic Controller, Cleveland Center and Michael McKinley, FAA attorney

Participants - Commission: John Farmer, Dana Hyde, and Lisa Sullivan

Dukeman began work at the Cleveland Center as a controller in January, 1986. The purpose of the interview was to ask Greg Dukeman about his responsibilities and activities as the Military Operations Specialist on September 11, 2001 from his position at the military operations desk in the Traffic Management Unit (TMU). It was a temporary rotation of nine months for medical reasons, because the position did not require that he work live traffic. In advance of taking the position, he read all of the MOUs (Memorandums of Understanding) and the Military Operations Manual. Shortly after 9-11, he went back to his regular position as a controller.

Dukeman described the mil operations position as the coordinator for the airspace around Cleveland Center with the military. "When the military bases want to do their exercises you have to coordinate with the space involved in the release." The person in the military operations position does not actually working any live traffic.

Dukeman said that Selfridge, a military air base, uses air space around the Flint Area. Pittsburg Air National Guard uses an area over Bradford, PA for refueling, etc. The military uses the air space on a daily basis for exercises. He would copy down the information on the exercise, request a time frame from the military contact, and then call

COMMISSION SENSITIVE
UNCLASSIFIED

that facility requesting the space back and confirm the use of the particular air space. Prior to 9-11, he worked on coordinating use of airspace with Huntress.

He does not remember what is in the Military Operations Manual or in any of the other materials provided to him about hijacking, and who to call in the event of one. To his knowledge, there was nothing he was supposed to do in the role of Military Operations Specialist in the TMU in the event of a hijacking. He does not know if he was supposed to call the military. He wouldn't know who to call. There were certain military facilities he came into contact with through his job as coordinator, but he received no training on who to contact in the event of a crisis.

The following is Dukeman's account of the events of September 11, 2001:

He arrived at work at 7:00 a.m. The day began normally; he was preparing for the day; going through which air space was to be used by military facilities. At 8:30 a.m., he took a break. At 9:00 a.m., Boston Center called the Traffic Management Unit (where the Military Operations desk is located) to report that a plane that hit the World Trade Center. Someone brought it up on the computer. Coordination was going on. There was nothing that pressing he needed to do. Half an hour later, he got a call about a possible hijack inbound to Cleveland; a Delta flight. He was not familiar with the caller's voice. He doesn't remember who it was. He remembers that it was a female, and knew it was a serious enough call. He thinks it may have been a call from Huntress. Someone said there were other planes out there.

That day at his desk, there were 5 lines coming in. He thinks the call regarding Delta might have been from a military facility. He remembers copying down the information that it was fifty miles from Cleveland. He passed the call information to Kim Wernica. He went back to his position and he remembers finding out about United Airlines 93. TMU were there monitoring the situation. He remembers Kim announcing, "there was a bomb on board," which was followed by some discussion as to whether or not they actually heard "bomb." There was also some "discussion" on what to do next.

COMMISSION SENSITIVE
UNCLASSIFIED

He remembers going secure on the line at that point with "the Pentagon," or some other military facility in Washington, DC. He claims to have "dialed somebody in Washington." Cleveland Center went "secure;" He is not sure how that works. He thinks that the Pentagon, FAA Headquarters, Command Center and Huntress were all on the conference call. He wasn't sure about this point. He seemed to think that the act of securing the line activated a call list that only goes to certain people. And he could receive incoming calls from only certain locations. Ken Rochester told him to go secure. It was someone in Washington; He believes the call in question was recorded.

He remembers getting a call on the military operations desk from a Major asking him, "Where do you think the closest place is we could get fighters." He said he had no idea; "Toledo or Huntress?" This was about the time that United Airlines flight 93 headed back to Pennsylvania.

He knew that Toledo kept F-16s. Then someone was on the phone they were on the tarmac and out in five minutes. Dukeman reported that the time he was aware that fighters were airborne, the flight had already crashed in Summerset.

He remembers receiving a call from Huntress confirmed the Delta hijack (a female voice). It was the same person he talked to earlier. He did not talk to her about United Airlines flight 93. He passed the phone off to Kim and she talked to whom he thinks may have been from Huntress. He hung up the phone. There was just one call. When asked if the call said she had a "confirmed" or "possible" hijack, Dukeman said he isn't sure.

Dukeman identified himself in the short transcript (Commission staff provided him with a copy) of the conversation between Cleveland Center and Huntress. He said the transcript recorded the first time he talked to Huntress about flight 93.

Selfridge and Toledo had f-16s. "Just name it I can call them right now," he remembers saying. Decided not to go with Selfridge because Toledo was closer. Either Ed Wobers or

COMMISSION SENSITIVE
UNCLASSIFIED

Craig Pass told him to call the "Major" at Huntress. He remembers having the conversation the in the transcript. The transcript was with the female.

His Huntress contact was receiving a lot of orders. She would, according to Dukeman, "Ask him this, ask him that," then her boss got on the line. The name "Nasipany" sounded familiar to him.

"It is fair to say there were a number of conversations that morning," he said.

He remained on the phone after receiving word that flight 93 had crashed. Tom Kerinko came down after sequence of phone calls (approximately 10:30 a.m. -11:00a.m.).

Admittedly, Dukeman was "not up on his SCATANA." He knew what it referred to; "there was a SCATANA manual on the shelf." Dukeman went on to say that Kerinko informed him he would take care of this and Dukeman said, "good." He does not know if SCATANA was ever enacted.

There were a few calls coming in. There was talk of evacuating the facility. They were down to three of them in the TMU. He and Tom Kerinko were still there. He left Cleveland Center at around 11:30 a.m. that morning

He was never asked to fill out a statement. Quality Assurance might have come down and asked him about the events. He saved all his paper work from that day. Military operations were not "his thing." A couple weeks later he went back to his area.