

RICE TRANSCRIPT NOTES

RICE TO WOODWARD
PP 360-385
October 24, 2001

Sequence of events

- First plane hits; Rice calls POTUS – tells him at end of convo that it's a commercial plane.
- Rice goes downstairs to start staff meeting; assistant comes in w\note that 2d plane hit
- Rice goes to Sit Room (asks Anna to look for Clark); turned around and saw on TV flight 77 crash into the Pentagon (??)
- Frank Miller comes in and “we had a line to POTUS” (while still in Sit Room?)
- SS takes Rice by arm and leads to PEOC
- First thing Rice does is call family
- VPOTUS says we can't bring POTUS back – cites false car bomb report from TV (GET TIMES!)
- VPOTUS established line with POTUS – he was flying (check wheels up time)
- Told Hadley to call Armitage and put out cable that gov't is up and running
- Call comes in from Putin – we had changed Defense Position which alerts the Russians; Putin says we're standing down the exercise
- Next couple of hours we're working with Mineta to locate tail numbers that weren't responding
- There were 22 that couldn't be accounted for – 2 that looked troubling; told somebody we need a log
- Mineta asked the VP (and President???? Unclear) if he should ground civil aviation – yes
- RE SHOOT DOWN (now really placed in time); First thing Rumsfeld did was put a CAP up; POTUS and VPOTUS had to talk about it; hard decision for POTUS but he made it decisively; “told the Vice President you have to give them the authority to fire if it doesn't respond;” Rumsfeld worked out ROE – someone said planes had 3 chances to respond.
- We did not know for a while whether the Pennsylvania plane had crashed, or whether we'd brought it down; putting the two together you now had rules of engagement that you would bring down a plane that wasn't responding; you had Norm Mineta saying okay, we're down to 20, we're down to 18, as they got to the ground
- Rice arranged NSC mtg; “the President immediately said, this – somebody's declared war on America. This is an attack on America, and we're at war.”
- Most of the NSC meeting was taken up with issues about air traffic and where did we have CAPS up
- I SUSPECT THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A FIFTH PLANE – YES

RICE TO EVAN THOMAS (NEWSWEEK)
PP 386 – 400
November 1, 2001

Sequence of Events

- Called POTUS after first hit; said at first it's a twin engine and then a few minutes later said no, it's a commercial plane (so POTUS knew when he hung up it was a commercial plane??)
- In the Sit Room; she turns around and sees on TV that a plane had hit the Pentagon
- Somebody takes her to the PEOC; Cheney already there AND already established a line to POTUS; CHENEY talked to POTUS when RICE arrived at the PEOC
- I talked to POTUS one last time from the Sit Room before I went to the bunker; told him not to come back to DC; "and he had talked to the Vice President who had said the same thing."
- I had the guy who does defense for me working on getting fighter escorts for POTUS to return and he asked – do we want to bring him back?
- EDELMAN said to CLARK & HADLEY – after the 2d plane was hit but b/f the Pentagon was hit – that the VPOTUS should be moved *Thomas*
- **AFTER CHENEY** hangs up with POTUS the "communicator from down in the bunker" came in and said to RICE there has been a named threat to AF1 (around 10 am or 9:50); "So if there was ever at that point any thought that the President might come back, it was now gone, because we knew we didn't want him to land at Andrews."
- Why Louisiana? Because POTUS was determined to make the first statement to the nation; and they wanted to get him on the ground in a secure location as soon as possible
- RE SHOOT DOWN ORDER: She talks of the "half-hour" period between 9:35 am and when 93 went down. "And Rumsfeld had – you know, the fighters had scrambled by that time. And he asked the Vice President, he said to the Vice President, I have to have a decision of rules of engagement. And the Vice President talked to the President and said, we have to talk about rules of engagement. What if the plane doesn't respond? And I wasn't on that call; I was around. My memory of it is that the Vice President said, so, sir, do you want to give them the authority if it doesn't respond, to shoot it down. The President said yes." When it crashed we didn't know if we had brought it down.
- RE 93: "It was conveyed that it was on a path toward Washington. And it wasn't at that moment that anybody said "toward" – I don't think anybody said "toward the White House," not at that moment. – A little bit later – was it the Capitol, was it the White House, but on a path toward Washington. I think in our minds, the fact that they had already hit the Pentagon and that it made sense that the White House might be next – in my mind it did."
- "Mineta was right there in the Sit Room on the phone with the FAA the entire time." ?? In the Sit Room???

- LOG: "I went and I got one of the secretaries and said here, sit here and keep a log."

RICE TO SCOTT PELLE (CBS)
PP 401-410
August 2, 2002

Sequence of Events

- First plane hits; "we thought maybe a twin engine plane of some kind, a small plane." [She omits the reference to it being a commercial plane]
- She's in the Sit Room; turns around and sees on TV that the Pentagon is hit; then the Secret Service comes in to take her to the PEOC; I stopped to talk to the President to say that Washington was under attack and so he should probably not come back ; I believe that he was already at the airport, ready to get back on AF1, when this conversation took place.
- RICE walks into the PEOC and sees CHENEY and MINETA; MINETA was checking tail numbers and CHENEY was trying to write them down
- RICE went from the central room to side room with deputy, Hadley, and started making phone calls
- RICE was told that Rumsfeld had changed the defense condition [get exact time]
- RE 93: "one of the more awful moments that entire day was when we heard that [93] had crashed. And an order, of course, had been given that if a plane did not respond properly to instruction and to the fighters that were sent up to intercept planes, that it should be shot down....It was hard for a few moments to verify that [93] had crashed, not been shot down."
- NSC teleconference: POTUS said this is an act of war; first time POTUS heard TENET say he thought AQ did this [**Conflict with Woodward Interview**]

RICE TO JOHN KING (CNN)
PP 411-424
August 2, 2002

Sequence of Events

- Rice in the Situation Room; sees the Pentagon has been hit; "right about that time the Secret Service said that they thought something might be headed for the White House, and that we had to go to the bunker."
- Spoke to POTUS before going to the PEOC; "he was already at the airport, already to be on Air Force One and get back here."
- I could hear the VP about the time I got to the PEOC saying "no sir, we don't think you should come back."
- We got word of Flight 93's crash shortly AFTER Rice talked to Putin; "and the concern there, was that by that time the President had given the order that if a plane did no respond to an order to be grounded, that the fighter was to shoot it down... we really didn't know..."

- REFERENCE TO MINETA'S SHOOT DOWN STORY WITH VP; JOHN KING ASKS THE QUESTION: "There were people on edge, thought, obviously. One person – Secretary Mineta was recalling when he said a military aide came in to the Vice President and said, you know, Sir, are those orders still in place – meaning, to shoot a plane down if necessary. And the Vice President looked up, he said, Of course they are; have you heard anything to the contrary? Essentially, you know, don't bother me. He said, it was that the Vice President was busy, don't bother me. Is that sort of the – you say no panic, but obviously people on edge."
- AQ came up for the first time in that afternoon meeting, with Tenet

RICE TO TERRY MORAN (ABC)
PP 425-435
August 6, 2002

- Her staff meeting is held in the conference room within the Situation Room; left the staff meeting and went into the Situation Room proper, which is off the conference room

RICE TO RON FOURNEIR (AP)
PP 436a-446
August 6, 2002

Sequence of Events

- Rice knew – before she walked into the bunker – that they were going to try to ground civil aviation (How??)
- "between about 10:00 am and about 1:00 pm, I can only remember looking at a clock at about 1:00 pm

RICE to JIM ANGLE (FOX NEWS)
PP 447-466
August 7, 2002

- RE 93: "The terrible truth was that we did not know how many hijacked airlines there were. And there were many erroneous reports of planes that were not responding properly. And then we learned that there was a plane that was not responding properly, and suddenly it disappeared into the ground in Pennsylvania. And that, of course, was Flight 93..."
- The decision to ground all civilian aircraft had already been made by the time that I got to the bunker...
- RE PLANES AS MISSILES: "We understand that this has come up. But the way that those things come up is not usually terribly specific. Everyone knew that there were other incidences in which al Qaeda affiliated people, had talked about flying an airplane into this or into that. Using the airplane itself as a missile was a fairly novel concept.

- RE COG: Q: Did we learn something A: "Well, we've looked at it and we've looked at it. That's all that I can say."

RICE TO WOODWARD

PP 461-466

August 7, 2002

Heavily redacted; a few policy questions

RICE TO WOODWARD

PP 467-499

August 19, 2002

ALL POLICY

RICE TO DAVID GREGORY (NBC)

PP 500-520

August 28, 2002

- First plane hits the WTC; RICE picks up the phone and calls POTUS; "And he had just heard."

Heavily redacted and mostly policy

RICE TO ABC-TV AUSTRALIA

PP 512-516

September 3, 2002

Policy; mostly redacted; nothing interesting

RICE TO TONY ALLEN-MILLS (SUNDAY TIMES)

PP 517-520

September 6, 2002

Nothing

THOUGHTS:

- Call to POTUS after WTC 1 hit: in the first interview w/Woodward (10/24/01) she mentions that at the end of this call "Tony" said they think it's a commercial plane, and she passes this along to POTUS. This description drops off in subsequent interviews.
- JOHN KING (CNN) asks her about MINETA's description of the military aide in the PEOC asking the VP if the shoot down orders still stand – the point is that MINETA has told this story before.

* Report of AFI threat comes AFTER Rice & Cheney tell him
not to come back.