

STATEMENT OF
CAPT CHARLES J. LEIDIG, JR.
COMMANDANT OF MIDSHIPMEN
UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
BEFORE THE
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON TERRORIST ATTACKS UPON THE
UNITED STATES
17 JUNE 2004

Approximately two months prior to 11 September 2001, I assumed duties as the Deputy for Command Center Operations in the J3 Directorate of the Joint Staff. In this role, I was responsible for the maintenance, operation, and training of watch teams for the National Military Command Center (NMCC). Further, I qualified in August 2001 to stand watch as the Deputy Director for Operations in the NMCC.

On 10 September 2001, Brigadier General Winfield, U. S. Army, asked that I stand a portion of his duty as Deputy Director for Operations, NMCC, on the following day. I agreed and relieved Brigadier General Winfield at 0830 on 11 September 2001.

Shortly after assuming duty, I received the first report of a plane's striking the World Trade Center. Some time after, I learned of the second plane's collision with the World Trade Center. In response to these events, I convened a Significant Event Conference, which was subsequently upgraded to an Air Threat Conference. During the Air Threat Conference, Brigadier General Winfield relieved me and reassumed duties as Deputy Director for Operations for the National Military Command Center.

The details of the Air Threat Conference are contained in the conference transcript. I was given the opportunity to review this transcript during testimony I gave to members of The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States staff on 29 April 2004. On that date, I recounted my actions as Deputy Director for Operations, NMCC, on 11 September 2001.