



# CATALOG

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## We Remember: 20th Anniversary of 9/11

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States. As the nation's record keeper, the National Archives holds many documents and photographs related to the events of September 11.



*Firefighters unfurl a large American flag over the scarred stone of the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia on September 12, 2001. Photographer: Paul Morse. [National Archives Identifier 5997275](#)*

## 9/11 Commission Records

The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, known as the 9/11 Commission, was an independent, bipartisan commission created by Congress. The [Commission's mandate](#) was to provide a "full and complete accounting" of the attacks of September 11, 2001 and to provide recommendations as to how to prevent such attacks in the future. When the 9/11 Commission closed on August 21, 2004, it transferred legal custody of its records to the National Archives. The Commission encouraged the release of its records to the fullest extent possible in January 2009. A large percentage of the Commission's records are national security classified files. The National Archives maintains a list of documents released since the records were opened in 2009.



*Staff members wave American flags as they gather on the South Lawn of the White House as President George W. Bush and Mrs. Laura Bush depart for Camp David aboard Marine One.*  
*Photographer: Paul Morse. [National Archives Identifier 5997343](#)*

Learn more about the [9/11 Commission Records](#), and view the released records in the [National Archives Catalog](#).

SECRET

MFR 04019815

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Event: Interview of Paul Akman  
Type of Event: Interview  
Date: December 23, 2003  
Special Access Issues: None  
Prepared by: Michael Jacobson  
Team number: 6  
Location: FBI Headquarters/SIOC  
Participants Non-Commission: FBI Assistant General Counsel Randy Blair  
Participants - Commission: Caroline Barnes, Len Hawley, and Mike Jacobson

**Background**

Akman joined the FBI in 1988 after graduating from Villanova University. He first was a GS-5 file clerk in the CT Section. There were about 100 people in the section at the time. He was assigned to the unit responsible for State Sponsors, including the Palestinian IT matters. In 1993, he became an intelligence research specialist, in the organized crime/drugs intelligence unit of the Criminal Division. He worked Columbia drug trafficking matters until 9/11. He was working on a special project in Crystal City. On 9/11, he received a phone call from Steve McGraw. He agreed to come back to FBI to work on this project. In January 2002, he was promoted to a supervisory analyst position, though he continued to work on this special project. In February 2002, he became a supervisory analyst in the CT analysis unit, and he was responsible for Sunni extremism matters. In March 2002, the unit chief transferred to the CI Division, and he became the acting unit chief.

9/11 Classified Information

Team 6 Interview with Paul Akman of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 12/23/2003. [National Archives Identifier 2609588](#)

UNCLASSIFIED  
Commission Sensitive

MFR 040746

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Event: Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Command Region (CONR) field site visit  
Type of event: Interview with Major Arias  
Date: Wednesday, February 04, 2004  
Special Access Issues: Clearance check  
Prepared by: Geoffrey Brown  
Team Number: 8  
Location: CONR Headquarters Building  
Participants - Non-Commission: Major Mathew Duffin, Staff JAG  
Participants - Commission: Team 8: John Azzarello, Geoffrey Brown, John Farmer, Miles Kara, Kevin Shaeffer  
Note: Please refer to the recorded interview for further details.

Commission staff spoke with Arias in a non-official capacity in order to receive information on how the press releases from NORAD that described the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 were developed and released.

Arias noted that on 9/11 he and Sergeant Tibits were the only Public Affairs officers at CONR. His recollections on 9/11 were more personal because of his direct connection to the attacks.

He coordinated with the Public Affairs office at NORAD, and received information from NORAD's operators.

Arias mentioned that on 9/11 he received a call from then Lt. Col., now Col. Dawne Deskins that informed him of the hijack and the impact of the aircraft in the World Trade Center. He called his brother, who worked in the south tower, and then went to attempt to contact NORAD Public Affairs in order to create connectivity. He received a fax from NORAD, and made a public statement.

On September 13<sup>th</sup>, 01 he went to New York to attempt find his brother.

Arias informed Commission staff that he had no impact on the timeline of events that was developed at NORAD. He believes in theory that NORAD should have all the specific timing information coordinated between operators at CONR and at NEADS.

Arias indicated that at NORAD headquarters Commission staff should speak with retired Colonel Mike Perini and Major Doug Martin. He believes they were involved in creating and releasing the NORAD timeline. Arias also noted that NORAD handled the

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Memorandum for the Record (MFR) of the Interview of Don Arias of the Continental United States North American Aerospace Defense Command Region (CONR) Conducted by Team 8, 2/4/2004. [National Archives Identifier 2609758](#)



A worker stands at Ground Zero in New York City. Photographer: Paul Morse. [National Archives Identifier 5997364](#)

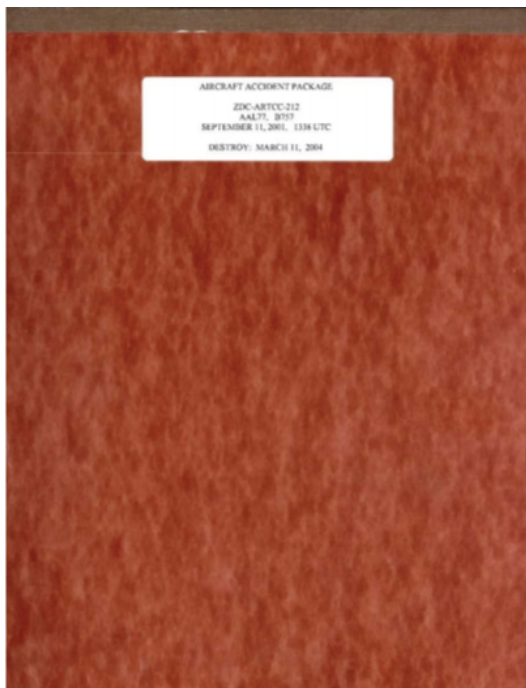


## 9/11 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Records

Following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) (Record Group 237) compiled records from its staff and aviation facilities to support internal and external investigations of the events. The records consist of 126 cubic feet of textual, audio, and electronic files relating to the actual terrorist attacks, the FAA's involvement in the monitoring of United Airlines Flights 175 and 93 and American Airlines Flights 11 and 77, and the Federal Government's subsequent actions in the aftermath of the attacks.

Learn more about the [9/11 Federal Aviation Administration \(FAA\) Records](#) at the National Archives and view the [Finding Aid](#).

View the processed FAA records in the [National Archives Catalog](#).



ZDC-ARTCC-212 AAL77		
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT <small>Continuation Sheet</small>	REPORT DATE December 4, 2001	REPORT NO. ZDC-ARTCC-212
<small>1. AIRCRAFT IDENTIFICATION (Including aircraft or other service number, if applicable) and emergency address (if any)</small>		
September 11, 2001		
<b>ALL TIMES BELOW ARE COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED</b>		
1240 - AAL77 was transferred from Washington ARTCC to Indianapolis ARTCC, Henderson Radar sector's (HNN-R) frequency, and reported level FL350. HNN-R acknowledged AAL77's initial call and instructed the flight to squawk code 3743. AAL77 acknowledged the code assignment.		
1243 - HNN-R cleared AAL77 to climb and maintain FL350. AAL77 reported leaving FL330 for FL350.		
1247 - HNN-R instructed AAL77 to turn 10 degrees right vectors for traffic. AAL77 acknowledged the turn.		
1250 - HNN-R cleared AAL77 direct to Falmouth VOR (FLM). AAL77 acknowledged the clearance. HNN-R initiated a handoff to DACCOS Radar sector (DAC-R). At this time AAL77 was level FL350 and the data block was in "flat track".		
1256 - HNN-R made 3 calls to AAL77 during this minute (1256). None of the transmissions were acknowledged by AAL77.		
1257 - HNN-R asked AAL77 for a radio check. AAL77 did not reply. HNN-R advised DAC-R that AAL77 appeared to turn toward the south; the aircraft's altitude was uncertain; the last clearance was to maintain FL350 and proceed direct FLM. DAC-R advised they would try to contact AAL77. AAL77's data block had gone into coast status.		
1258 - HNN-R made 3 calls to AAL77 during this period (1258). AAL77 did not acknowledge any calls made to the flight.		
1258 - DAC-R called AAL77. AAL77 did not acknowledge.		
1259 - DAC-R transmitted to AAL77 and received no acknowledgment.		
1300 - HNN-R called AAL77, no reply. AAL2493 called HNN-R and advised they had sent a message to dispatch to have AAL77 contact ZID on frequency 120.27. HNN-R advised AAL2493, that earlier they had AAL77 in radar coverage on the west side of their airspace. The flight's data block had gone into coast, then disappeared, and they no longer had radio contact with the aircraft.		
1300 - DAC-R called AAL77. AAL77 did not acknowledge.		
1303 - HNN-R attempted to contact AAL77 and received no acknowledgment.		
NO MORE FOLLOWS		

FAA Form 8030-8 (1-7-78) Formery FAA Form 2482-1 (Electronic Version) PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

Open Files Relating to the September 11, 2001 Terrorist Attacks on the United States, 2001 - 2004, 1. AAL 77 - (a) Accident Package. [National Archives Identifier 7595522](#)

## 9/11 Photograph Collection

In the days following the September 11 terrorist attacks, White House photographers took over 50,000 photographs capturing the horror and heroism, the courage and compassion surrounding the attacks.



*Firefighters await the arrival of President George W. Bush to Port Authority in New York City. Photographer: Paul Morse. [National Archives Identifier 5997307](#)*

View the collection of [9/11 photographs from the George W. Bush Presidential Library](#), and a selection of photographs in the [National Archives Catalog](#).



*President George W. Bush embraces a firefighter at the site of the World Trade Center during his visit to New York City. Photographer: Paul Morse. [National Archives Identifier 5997299](#)*

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## 9/11 Fireman's Son Sees Dad on National Archives Instagram

On the 18th anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy, the National Archives shared a Catalog image from President George W. Bush's visit to Ground Zero on September 14, 2001.



*Firefighters look on as President George W. Bush surveys the destruction left by terrorist attacks on New York City. Photographer: Paul Morse. [National Archives Identifier 5997302](#)*

The son of a 9/11 fireman saw the photo on the National Archives Instagram account and asked: “Hello, I just came across this picture that you posted and the firefighter in the middle is my dad. Is there any way you can send me the original photo?” Learn more about this remarkable story and connection on [National Archives News](#).



L: New York City firefighters and emergency personnel conduct response operations at Ground Zero following the attack on the World Trade Center. Photographer: Dana Trytten. [National Archives Identifier 24476901](#)

R: Firefighters brave the thick smoke as they search for survivors through the rubble and debris of the World Trade Centers in New York City in the area known as Ground Zero, after the 9/11 terrorists attacks, 9/14/2001. Scene Camera Operator: PH2 Jim Watson, USN. [National Archives Identifier 6640973](#)

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## Upcoming Programs and Resources

The National Archives and the National Archives Foundation will commemorate the 20th anniversary of 9/11 with a series of virtual programs accessible live to viewers across the country. Learn more about the live programming, as well as featured documents and educational resources on the [National Archives Foundation website](#).



September 11, 2003 - Temporary memorial near Shanksville, Pennsylvania honoring the passengers and crew of Flight 93, hijacked on September 11, 2001. [National Archives Identifier 5616340](#)

Additional posts and resources:

- [Rusty the Comfort Dog – The Text Message blog](#)
- [The Zone – The Text Message blog](#)

- [Ten years later: Handling 9/11 Commission records – Pieces of History blog](#)
- [9/11: An Address to the Nation – Pieces of History blog](#)



*President George W. Bush Before an Address to the Nation Regarding the Day's Terrorist Attacks from the Oval Office, 9/11/2001. Photographer: Paul Morse. [National Archives Identifier 204325066](#)*

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## Citizen Archivist Mission

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**COVID-19 Update**

The National Archives is committed to the health and safety of our visitors and staff. We are closely monitoring the situation regarding COVID-19, and we are working with public health officials and our counterpart agencies to monitor and respond to the evolving conditions and following CDC guidelines.

For more information, visit <https://www.archives.gov/coronavirus>

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Questions or comments? Email us at [catalog@nara.gov](mailto:catalog@nara.gov).



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