

3/26/09 Interview of Tony Mello ①

- military 1977-81
- 1981 - LGA tower - ATC
- ~~1981~~ 1981-84 at LGA
- 1984-87 - ATC at SAN JUAN P.R.
TRACON - ATC
Center - ATC
- 1988-91 Baltimore ATC
- 1991 → Canals hired in
- 1995 Air Traffic Investigations
- ~~1991-95~~
- 1996 → went to ZDC
↳ 1998-~~98~~ as a Supervisor
↳
- 1998 - back to Staff
Position under Canals
- Acting Asst. Division Mgr.
- Asst. Division Mgr. AAT-201
Under Dave Canals
↳
- held this position on 9/11
- Reported to Dave Canals - AAT-20

- Daily job duties → investigate AT accidents, accidents, etc.
- litigation support for any AT FAA litigation
- Pre 9-11 → hyack Protocol
- his office would be involved with gathering data after the hyack accident (investigative role).
- Who would have hyack duties Pre 9-11?
- Day of 9-11
- 8:15 - 8:20 AM → he's on 4th FL.
- Canales was a "hands on" boss.
- Canales told him A/C hit WTC.
- Canales mentioned poss. hyack.
- He took Dan Higgins with him

to the 10th Fl. with Dave Conobes.

- In event of major accident ->
They usually go to 10th Fl. to
~~brief~~ brief Director of AT (- Bill Peacock).

- They set up an ~~AT~~ Telecon
Bridge.

- First 10-15 minutes on 10th Fl. ->
he heard someone say "another
one hit"

- Telecon was up immediately but
no one was on it yet.

- D. Conobes said to get 2NY
on the telecon first.

- Then N90 came on the telecon
afterwards.

- 2NY may have ~~gotten~~ got on telecon
at or about the time of WTC 2
crash.

- Conobes asked CC to get on

Telecon.

- ZBW } They get on the telecon at
- ZDC } same point.
- Thinks CC non position would have been on ~~D~~ Conales telecon.
- F. Hatfield from AEA was on the Conales bridge.
- a lot of activity started to happen.
- Mr. Cornick gave updates.
- Talk early on about an A/C going down Hudson River re; which A/C hit WTC
- After WTC 2 crash → he knew something was wrong. Not thinking terrorism.
- After First 2 Crashes → someone (man) reported a fast moving A/C - 60 N.W. - 30 miles from D.C.
↳ he thinks a military person was saying this b/c of the phraseology.

— After WTC 2 crash and before Pentagon they got a report (Conales Telecom) that AAL 77 crashed on border of Kentucky / Indiana.

— after UAL 93 crashed, there was still some discussion about what happened to AAL 77.

— ~~AAL 77 - remembers it being reported from 30 miles out~~

— AAL 77^{Crash} → quotes this with report of AIC 60 NW and then
— 30 miles out of D.C.

— UAL 93 - ZOB reported transponder went off, ~~turned~~ AIC turned (does not recall hearing about bomb on board).

— ZOB said UAL 93 was southeastbound.

— Rely on 9-11 → support for Dave Conales.

— He never went to WOC or ACC b/w 9-12 noon on ~~9/11~~ the day of attacks.

- Doug Gould monitored the Canals' telecon from 4th Fl. of H.Q.

- He and Ferrante worked on 9/17/01 FAA Summary of Hycocks.

- Worked on FAA Hycocks Summary 9/17/01
- D. Canals - oversaw project
 - Mello's role →
 - D. Diggins
 - D. GOULD
 - T. FERRANTE
 - J. MYERS
 - Catherine Myers

Tony Mello

3/26

81-84 ATC
81-87 San Juan Puerto Rico
87 Eastern Region

→ Baltimore

95
→ 91 hired by Dave Conoles - 4 yrs AT investigation

→ ZDC Supervisor
2 1/2 yrs
late 98
Back to ATS under Conoles

then ^{Permanently} AAT 201

← Acting Asst Dir Mgr

prior 9/11

Shared duty for on call
Daily basis - compiled QA problems for day before - briefed up daily

Send beams to sites or facilities
+ supported litigation - air traffic

If hijack report -
doesn't recall working Lufthansa
Coordination

no facility then to HQ
Has understanding & go direct to AD Sector
three MOS

9/11

prepared for early briefing on day before stuff

8:15 - 8:20 Dave Conoles walked by

Canoles said come w me
plane hit WTC
mentioned Lynch

So Canoles, Diggins, Mello + I
go to 10th floor — to brief
he knew an a/c hit WTC
Director of Air Traffic

TV was in Bill's office
Jeff was in charge
Dave said we need a telecon
They had an imitator-only telecon
w pass code
Completely bypassed was telecon

~~230~~
230 3:12 10-15 minutes learned
"another one hit" Conf Rm
was next to Peacock's office

Process of bringing people up
Op Manager level
ZNY first up — before 2d?
three ZNY → TRACON
ZBL
Boston Command Center
ZDC
Hatfield was on line
Watch Desk
NOM



Lot of activity starting to happen
Mike was giving updates

Talk early on about jet down
HUDSON river

Doesn't recall WOC/ACC folks coming to ATSR

He, Mello, went to 4th floor to WOC

military type voice 60 40 20

never worked on tapes for Command Center

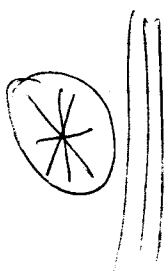
Herndon is the eyes & ears

can hear & see

between WTC Pentagon

airplane crash in Kentucky/Ind border
AA77

after all 4 down - still discussion of where 77 was



always related CONW to UA93

correlates to Camp David

Q re 77

if someone did it we didn't do it

never went to work or Crisis Center
that day

Doug Gould was monitoring from
4th floor

Nancy was AT2-2
to Sabir
Khalabi

Tony Ferrante his boss met there on 9-11
of him put out tasks for the AAT
product in charge, Dave Canales

re no notification times to military
came to ~~hand~~ they had no data points
for AA77 & UA93

Cavel = Perceps Secretary